







**THE  
VICEREGAL VISIT  
TO  
BARODA  
1926.**

**BY  
KRISHNARAO N PANEMANGLOR, B. A.**

**WITH A FOREWORD BY  
Nek Namdar  
SIR MANUBHAI NANDSHANKAR MEHTA  
KT, C S I, M A, LL B., DEWAN OF BARODA**

**BARODA**



**From out Sunrise came Guj the stella bright,  
Stone to stone fitted Gaek again and Truth  
Love, Peace and Justice came and dwelt therein.**

**K. N. P.**

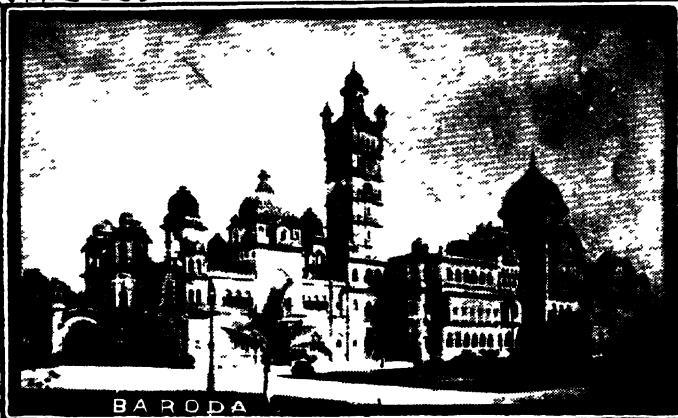
VISIT

OF

H.M. THE KING EMPEROR



TO



BARODA

LAXMI VILAS PALACE.

1929



## Foreword.

The Viceroy's visit to the Capital of a premier Indian State is an event of unique importance. It is as necessary for the Viceroy to come into intimate association with the Rulers and people of Indian States as it is essential for him as Governor General to feel the pulse of the vast masses of people committed to his care in British India. The territories comprised in Indian India represent no less than one third the area of the whole sub continent and hold more than one fifth of the entire population of the Country. Any opportunity availed of by the Viceroy of His Majesty the King Emperor to come into close personal contact with the problems of Indian States must in consequence redound to their mutual benefit.

Unfortunately very often it happens that wholly absorbed in problems of grave moment arising in British India, the Viceroy has hardly much time to study the interests and foster the aspirations of the Indian Rulers. "Politically speaking, the Indian peasantry" wrote Lord Lytton to Lord Salisbury, "is an inert mass. If it ever moves, it will be in obedience, not to its British benefactors, but to its Native Princes and Chiefs. To secure completely and efficiently to utilise the Indian aristocracy is, I am convinced, the most important problem before us." Referring to the Indian Princes, he continued, "Here is a great aristocracy, which we cannot get rid of, which we are avowedly anxious to conciliate and command, but which we have as yet done next to nothing to rally round the British Crown."

As Friends and Allies within the British Empire, the Indian Princes have been recognised even by such an Imperialistic Viceroy as the late Marquis Curzon, as the Pillars of the British Empire. Lloyd George called the Civil Service in India the Steel frame of the Imperial Structure and verily the Indian Rulers--the **Arcane Dowlat**, are the essential pillars

that bind together this magnificent edifice. If the Imperial Architect has constantly to look after the nuts and bolts of the Steel frame, surely the pillars also call for an occasional cementing.

The Viceroy is the head of the Political Department. He is his own Political Minister on the Cabinet of the Government of India. He exercises control over the relations of the various Indian Rulers with the Political Officers accredited to their courts. These relations unhappily are not always very strictly or accurately defined. They are left to sway according to the freak of the moment. They take their tune from the wind prevailing at the moment at the Head Quarters. It was the Marquis of Hastings who first saw "the formidable mischief to which we were drifting from our not having defined to ourselves or made intelligible to the Native Princes, the quality of the relations which we have established with them. In our Treaties with them we have recognised them as Independent Sovereigns. Then we send a Resident to their Courts. Instead of acting in the character of an Ambassador, he assumes the function of a dictator." When the central wheel in the machine is unduly tugged at, it naturally creaks and grates and the visit of the Viceroy—as the Arch-Mechanic serves to apply oil to the gear and bring it into train. It was Lord Minto who successfully diagnosed the common ailment which Indian States so generally suffered from. "It is upon the harmonious co-operation of Indian Princes and Political officers that so much depends—Co-operation which must increase in value as communications develop and new ideas gain ground. We are at the commencement of a New Era of Thought in India. We shall have new problems to face as years go on, problems surrounded with difficulties and anxieties, in the solution of which the Ruling Chiefs of India have to bear in mind that the interests of themselves and their people are identical with those of the Supreme Government."

The new Era has set in and the trend of events must draw Indian States still closer into the orbit of the Empire. More frequent occasions for a free and fearless talk and a heart to heart communion of ideas between the Viceroy and the Indian Rulers have become all the more necessary. Culled from the Diary of the Marquis Curzon, we are told, "the relations between the Viceroy and the Ruling Princes of India, based

partly on Treaty, partly on long usage, partly on considerations of high expediency and honour, are among the most agreeable but also the most anxious, of his responsibilities. In modern times, the standards of administrative efficiency in the Native States have greatly improved, and many of them are ruled over by men who do honour to their exalted order. "

Baroda can legitimately claim this high compliment. As remarked by Lord Chelmsford, " We in British India may learn a good deal from observation of what has been done in the Indian States in the way of testing and proving new paths of advance. Baroda has been fortunate in having for the past forty three years a Ruler who has devoted so much care and thought to the promotion of the welfare of the people. In your efforts to bring the benefits of literacy to the entire male population of your State, to spread knowledge among women, to uplift the backward and depressed classes, to promote the public health, to improve economic conditions and to induce a desire and an aptitude for local self-government, Your Highness has addressed yourself to questions, the right solution of which would bring about the cure of many political ills. By wise promotion of a system of political and social order, aiming at the combination of all that is best in Eastern and Western Civilization, the Ruler of an Indian State may do much to show the path of progress to the peoples of India. "

The right of self--determination has now become the slogan of many political forces. The administration of a wisely governed Indian State affords a convincing illustration of how a people left to govern themselves through an agency that is mainly Indian, with Indian Ideals and Indian Institutions can, as a member and constituent of a glorious and benign Empire, over which the Sun never sets, forge out new paths of progress and effective avenues of advance.

Rule in an Indian State, moreover, is personal rule--The institution of a Viceroy appeals to its mind and inspires a keener feeling of personal loyalty to the Crown than mere Government Resolutions or Ordinances. To the subject of an Indian State, the Ruler is not an

automaton, lifeless and, at times, even soul less, but a live person animated with flesh and blood; and it is gratifying to his oriental mentality to be afforded an opportunity of doing homage to the Emperor, through his accredited chief agent—the Viceroy.

This modest book is an attempt to chronicle the several interesting functions and ceremonials which formed a part of Baroda's tribute to that great Viceroy—the Marquis of Reading—the astute Judge and wise Statesman, who held sway over the destinies of India between 1921 and 1926.

*1st January 1927*

**Manubhai Nandshankar.**

## **Preface.**



His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda very properly observed "A Viceroy's visit to an Indian State is a memorable event to its Ruling House and its People ". It is a token of the friendly relations existing between the Ruler of the State and His Majesty the King Emperor.

The recollection of such a visit and the sentiment which it stirs up would be, it goes without saying, most welcomed and appreciated by posterity. " A thing of beauty is a joy for ever." It is this intention that has prompted the author to prepare this record of an event—His Excellency the Earl of Reading's Visit to Baroda—at once illustrious and memorable.

History is a record of men and events and a Viceregal visit to an Indian State is an historical fact of the first importance, on account of the several noble associations of the Ruling Family and of the distinguished visitors that it calls to mind.

My most grateful thanks are due to my worthy and exalted master, His Highness the Maharaja Saheb for the noble inspiration that I have received through my close association with him, for his fatherly advice and for the many proofs of his largeness of heart and nobility of mind of which I have been privileged to be witness.

To the Dewan Saheb, Sir Manubhai Mehta, remarkable as much for the brilliancy of his intellectual attainments as for his consummate patience, I offer my heartfelt thanks ; were it not for his kind and ready sympathy, this humble record would not have seen the light of day. I am also grateful to him for so very kindly consenting to write an introduction to the book.



**I must also acknowledge my obligations to my revered friend, Rao Bahadur Govindbhai H. Desai who as a living Cyclopædia of knowledge concerning Baroda has supplied me with useful and valuable information.**

**In spite of the great care which has been bestowed on the preparation of the book, errors of pen and press are inevitable and for these, I crave the indulgence of the reader. To attain perfection is most desirable, but not always possible.**

***Baroda,***

***16 November 1926.***

**Krishnarao N. Panemanglor.**

***“ Hor vult Deus. ”***

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ऐश्वरस्य विभूषणं सुजनस्य शीर्षस्य वाक्संयमो

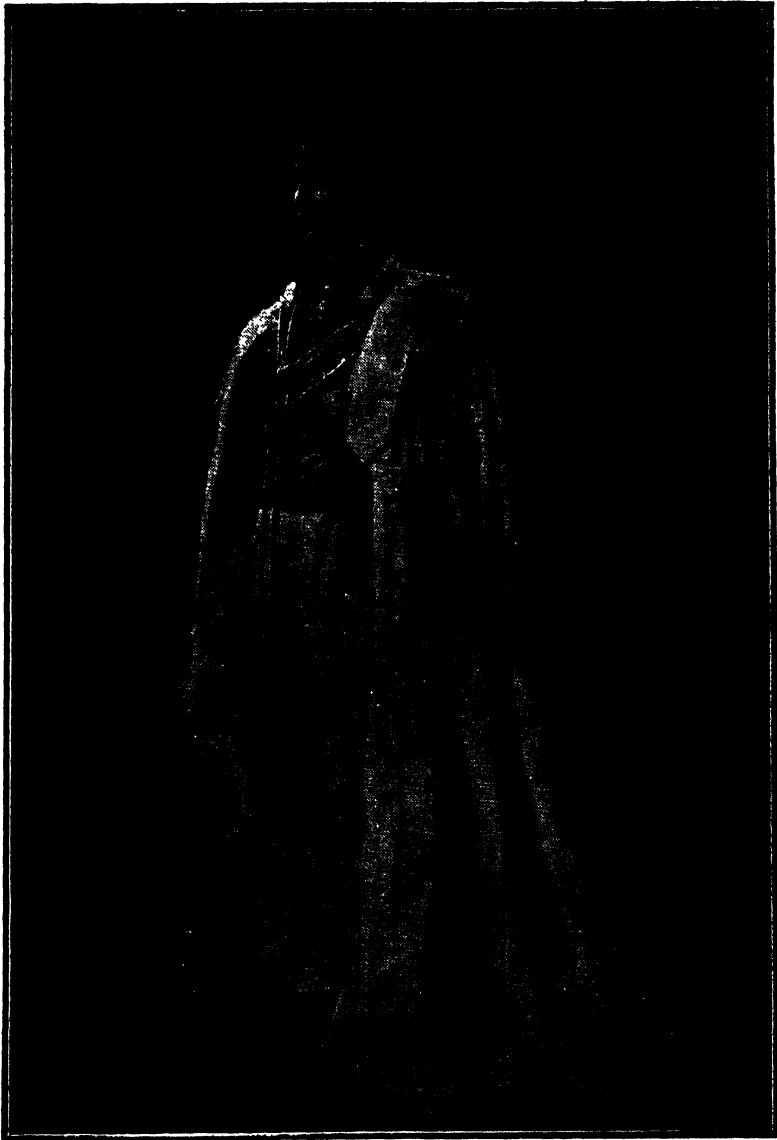
ज्ञानस्योपशमः ध्रुतस्य विनयो वित्तस्य पात्रे व्यवः ।

अक्रोधस्तपसः क्षमा प्रभवितुर्वर्मस्य निर्व्याजिता

सर्वेषामपि सर्वकारणमिदं शीलं परं भूषणम् ॥

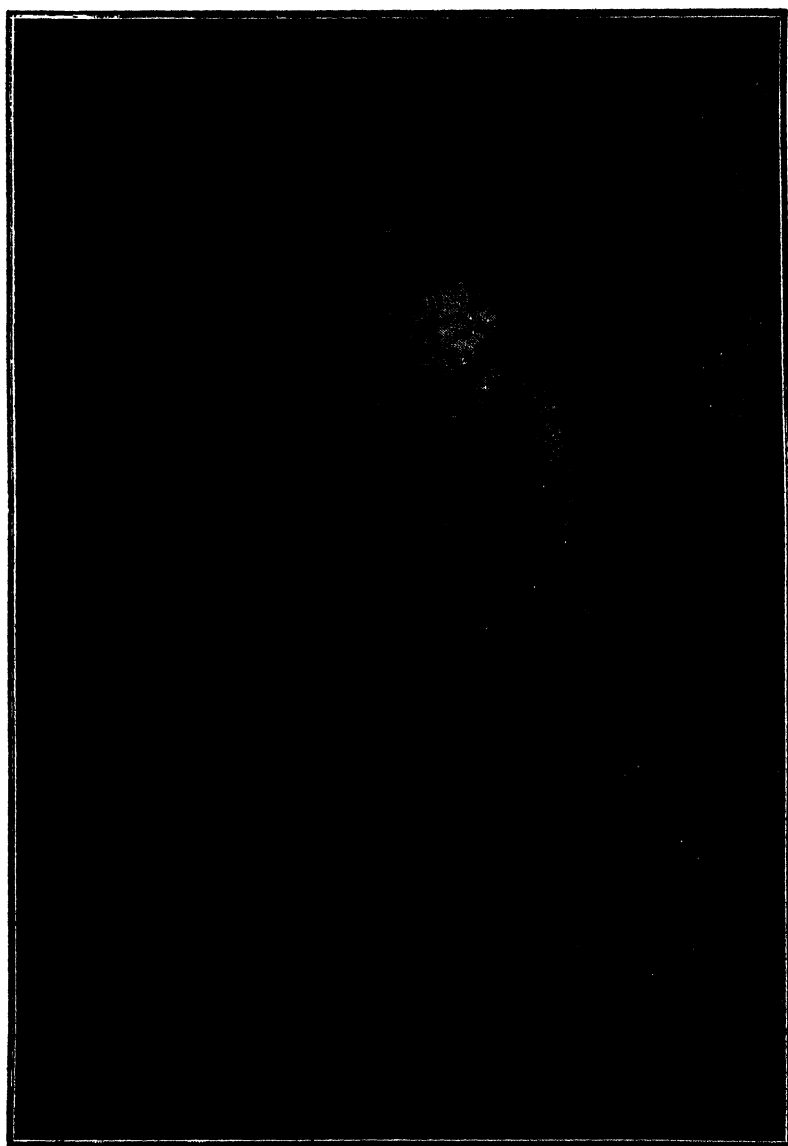
Good nature is the ornament of greatness—silence, of valour—restraint over the senses, of learning—humility, of knowledge—spending for worthy objects, of wealth—freedom from anger, of austerities—forgiveness, of a man in power—freedom from hypocrisy, of religion—and good character which is the essence of all is the ornament of all things.





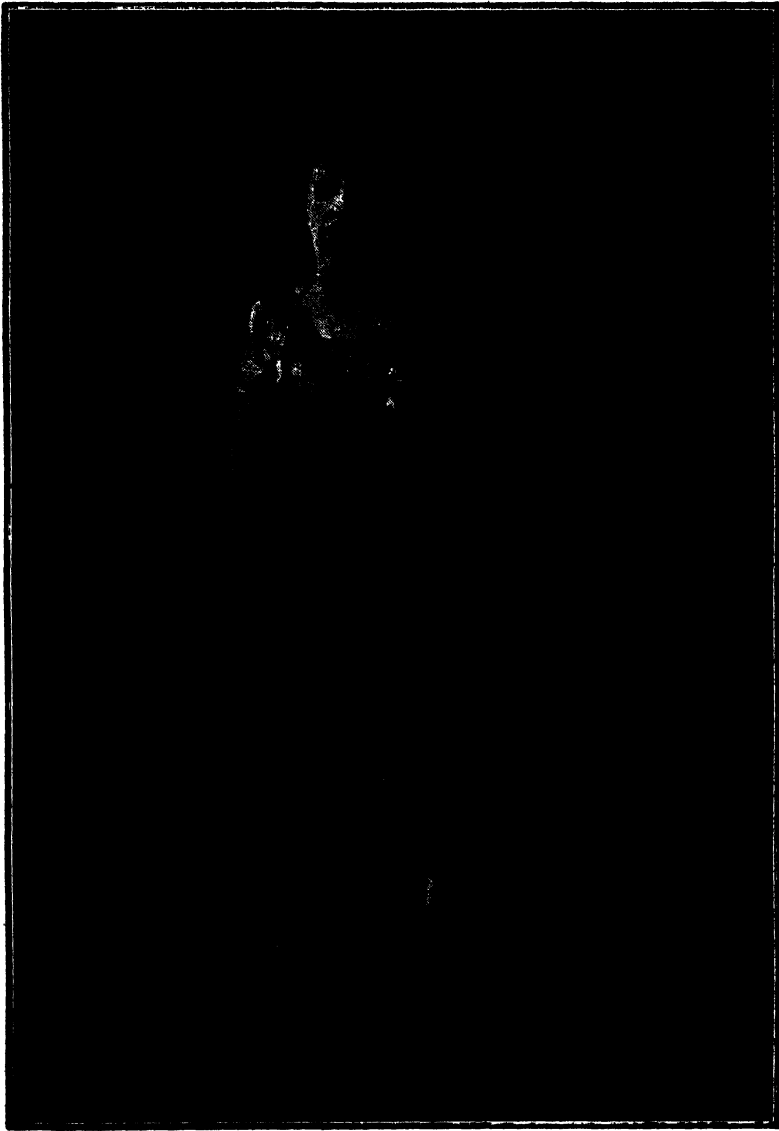
**H. E. The Rt. Hon'ble Sir Rufus Daniel Isaacs,  
Earl of Reading. P. C., G. C. B., G. M. S. I., G. M. I. E., G. C. V. O.**











**Her Excellency the Countess of Reading, C. I., G. B. E.**





**Her Highness the Maharani Chinnabai Sahib  
Gaekwar of Baroda c. 1.**



## **CHAPTER I.**

---

### **Ante.**

#### **The Invitation.**

Evians is one of the most popular and fashionable health resorts in Europe, famous for its wholesome waters that afford a ready cure to some of the most troublesome of diseases, and people in Europe generally resort to this place, under medical advice, for the benefit of their health. His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda when he had left India, was suffering from a painful and severe attack of gout, and had actually to be carried in a chair to the steamer, but he gradually improved in his health in Europe, and was able to spend the month of July, in this beautiful place of which he is so fond.

It was here on the 8th of July, that His Highness conceived the happy idea of inviting His Excellency the Viceroy to pay a visit to his capital in December and His Highness' Minister in Baroda was accordingly asked to make the necessary preparations. His Highness' idea, conceived in a happy moment and in a happy place was bound to bear good fruit, for, as subsequent events have proved, the result was a grand success.

#### **The Kharita.**

The next thing that was necessary was the despatching of a Kharita to His Excellency the Viceroy, containing His Highness' invitation. A Kharita is an important state document. On all important occasions

such as marriages and the like in a Royal family, it is customary to send Kharitas to high and distinguished personages. In the olden days, when there was important correspondence between Nana Fadnavis and the Nizam or the Darbaris at Delhi, the subject matter used to be written in the Persian language, and consequently a Munshi was required to do the writing work. The business of the Munshi was to write the document and explain letters received from the Darbaris. He was called "Parasnis." As time went on, in the case of Mahratha rulers, Marathi Modi began to be used and so the Munshi had to write Modi scripts and keep records of such important letters. But since 1875, the Kharitas sent to the British Government are drafted by the Minister in English, and approved of by His Highness. His Highness signs them and then the date is affixed, while the Fadnis affixes the State Seal on the envelope and the outer bag in accordance with the usual practice, in the presence of His Highness or the Minister, the Muzumdar and the Munshi merely witnessing the process. At one time, it was the privilege of the Muzumdars to read the Kharitas and date them. The Kharitas are fourfolded and placed in the envelope when the Fadnis affixes the big Royal Seal in the centre and on the reverse of the envelope and the Small Seal of "Mortabasud" on the four corners thereof. The packet is then placed in a gold embroidered bag, which is closed with gold threads, and then the Royal Seal on wax is affixed on it. In the olden days these Kharitas were entrusted to some influential Sardar who took some Naiks with him and made long journeys to the destined places, and it took them days or months, according to the distance. But, the introduction of Posts and Telegraphs, of Railways and other means of communications, of printing and typewriters have revolutionised the whole system and today important documents are typed and despatched by post, with no Sardars to take care of them in transit, while the Munshi, the Muzumdar and the Fadnis are nothing more than mere idle witnesses to the process, kept as a sort of relic of the old custom.

The Kharita, addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy, on the present occasion was dated the 18th September 1925 and sent to E. H. Kealy Esq I C. S., the Resident at Baroda, on the 12th October 1925, for favour of forwarding the same to His Excellency the Viceroy and it was as follows:—

To

**His Excellency**

**The Rt. Honorable**

**Sir Rufus Daniel Isaacs, Earl of Reading,**

**P. C., G. C. B., G. M. S. I., G. M. I. E., G. C. V. O.**

**Viceroy & Governor General of India.**

*My Honoured and Valued Friend,*

*As the programme of Your Excellency's movements, during this next cold weather, is likely to be settled soon, I take this opportunity to invite Your Excellency, Her Excellency the Countess of Reading and the other members of your family, to honour my capital by a visit some time in January next. I need hardly say that Your Excellency's visit will not only please me personally and the members of my family but will equally afford immense pleasure to my people.*

*With an expression of the high consideration that I entertain for Your Excellency, I beg to subscribe myself.*

*Dated at Russell, Watford*

*18th Sept. 1905.*

*Your Excellency's sincere friend*

**Sayaji Rao Gaekwar.**

As His Highness was in Europe, the Kharita had to make a long voyage from Watford to Baroda and thence to Delhi and it was a happy voyage indeed, as His Excellency the Viceroy sent his reply Kharita on the 2nd November, accepting His Highness' invitation in the following words:—



To

**His Highness Farzand-i-Khas-i-Daulat-i-Inglishia**

**Maharaja Sir Sayajirao Gaekwar**

**Sena Khaskhel Shamsheer Bahadur**

**G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E.,**

**Maharaja of Baroda.**

*My honour and valued friend,*

*I have received Your Highness' friendly letter of the 18th September 1925 in which you have invited Lady Reading and myself to visit Baroda in January next.*

*I thank Your Highness cordially for the kind invitation which I accept, with much pleasure on behalf of Her Excellency and myself. I need hardly assure Your Highness that we are greatly looking forward to the visit.*

*I desire to express the high consideration which I entertain for Your Highness and to subscribe myself,*

*Delhi,*

*Your Highness' sincere friend*

*2nd Nov 1925.*

**Reading**

*Viceroy & Governor General of India.*

The reply Kharita from H. E. the Viceroy was forwarded by the Hon'ble Resident on the 9th November for delivery to His Highness in Europe and the news that the Viceroy was going to visit Baroda was spread far and wide and everybody began to look forward to this happy event.

### **The Red Letter Year.**

The year under record has been a most remarkable one in the History of Baroda. It was a pleasure to every one to see His Highness

the Maharaja Sahab returning hale and hearty from Europe, where he had gone for the benefit of his health and the demonstration of joy on the face of every one, rich and poor was not of a small degree.

His Highness had completed fifty years of a glorious rule and Sir Sayaji Rao had made Baroda great. Greatness does not mean mere size or extent of the territories or the quantity of wealth but it means the greatest good done to the people and His Highness' rule is a practical example of what a great man who has at heart the happiness of the people can do for his State. It is for this that the people had one and all united to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of His Highness' glorious reign in a most fitting form and the function was a great success and will be recorded by posterity as the greatest function of the State

Nothing was happier than for such a fitting event to be followed by another, the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy. The presence of the Viceroy in a State shows the regard of His Imperial Majesty towards the Maharaja Sahab and though the visit lasts only 3 days, its far reaching importance cannot be under-estimated.

His Highness the Maharaja Sahab's hospitality is proverbial and to no one has it been a greater pleasure than to His Highness to have been able to welcome in his capital once more a distinguished visitor, worthy representative of our illustrious King Emperor.

To the loyal subjects of the State, it has therefore been an extraordinary piece of good luck, that they have been able to participate in the Jubilee celebrations very soon followed by the visit of one of the greatest Viceroys of India.

Before His Highness' return to India, the sudden illness of Her Excellency Lady Reading and the consequent necessity of an immediate operation in Calcutta cast a gloom over India and it looked as if the Viceregal visit would be postponed. But Providence was smiling both on the host and the visitors, for while His Highness returned to India on the 20th November in excellent health, Her Excellency the Countess of Reading was also making sure progress and so nobody was to be disappointed. To His Highness' enquiry after Lady Reading's health, His Excellency wrote on the 26th November :



His Highness the Maharaja of Baroda landing at Apollo Bunder, Bombay, on the 26 th. November 1925, on his return from Europe to India.

My dear Gaekwar,

Many thanks for Your Highness' letter and your kind enquiries about Her Excellency. I am glad to say that she is making good progress, though convalescence must always be a slow process, after a serious operation. She hopes however to be well enough to accompany me on my visit to Baroda to which we are both looking forward.

Kind regards,

Sincerely Yours,

**Reading.**

30-11-25.

### **Lord Reading's Administration.**

Of Lord Reading, it can truly be said that no Viceroy was called on to govern India in a more critical period of her affairs. None of his predecessors has had a more difficult choice in the administration from day to day between patience and action. He has lived through some desperate years and has seen his work to its highest conclusion. The results of a finely judged combination of restraint and firmness in his rule are apparent to all.

### **Lord Reading's Personality.**

Lord Reading is one of the most interesting personalities of the day. He is a Londoner, his father being a city merchant. He has had a wonderfully variegated career, at sea, on the stock exchange, at the bar, in the House and the Cabinet, being the first attorney general to be a member, on the bench ; at the head of war missions and in India, as the King's worthy representative His brilliant administration and influence in the Far East have been of the greatest assistance in the efforts which are so hopeful for stabilising the relations of nations and for peace and civilisation.

In one of his famous speeches, Lord Reading said " I say to you in all earnestness that the time will come when there will be complete and willing union between India and Britain, when relations between them will have emerged from racial hostility, when the Indian will have banished his suspicion and distrust, and will have come to realise that

the plighted word of the British Parliament is as sacred an act as is known to humanity and when he will understand that, it is in the community of the interest, purpose and ideas that lies the true future union between Britain and India, as part of the British Empire. It is in the consummation of that destiny marked out for her, that lies the surest road to the welfare, happiness and prosperity of the people."

### **The Golden Jubilee.**

Fifty years have passed since His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar, as a lad of thirteen ascended the gadi and this half century has been one of steady progress. The 11th of January will go down in the history of the Baroda Rulers as the most auspicious day, marking the completion of His Highness' fifty years' rule. The Jubilee celebrations culminating in the visit of the Viceroy serve to emphasise the way in which His Highness has developed the scattered blocks of territory which form his State into a model of progressive administration. His Highness' ambition was to make his State a model, by administering the districts well and by spreading education among his people.

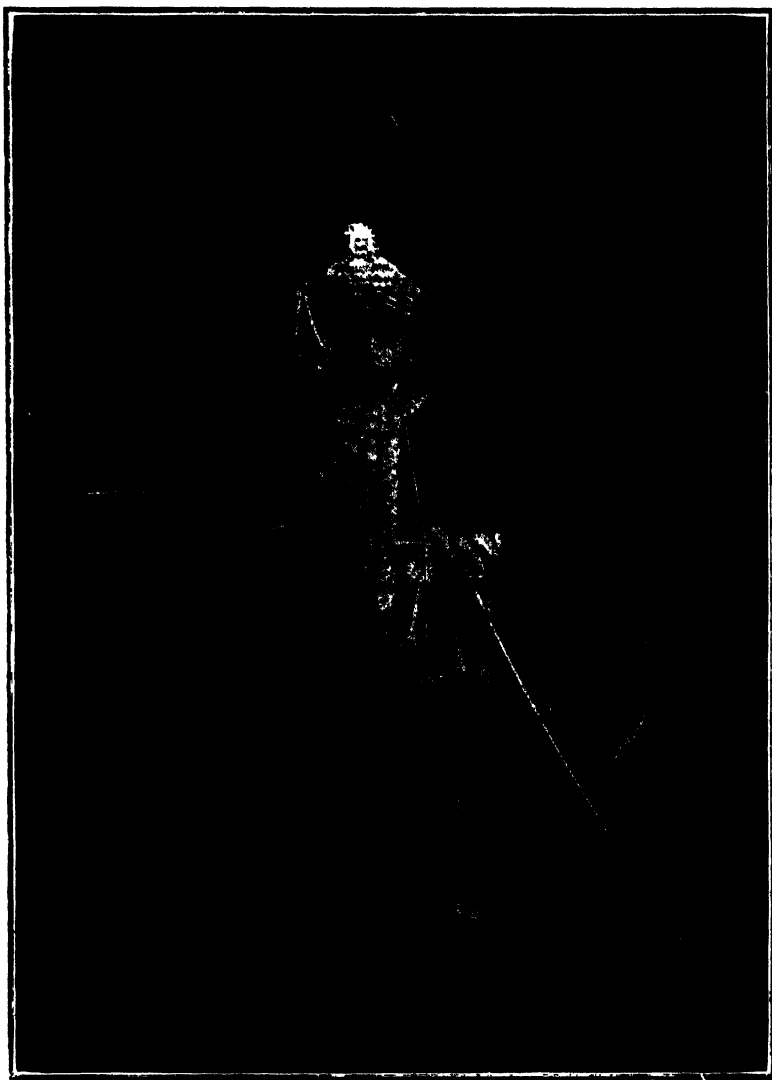
### **A Great Ruler.**

His Highness is one of those very few that have stepped out of the bounds of their environments into conspicuous positions of great national leadership and his work will stand forth as a far shining landmark of a representative achievement, representative of that union of Western efficiency and culture with Eastern idealism on which is based the hope of a nobler Indian nationhood.

His Highness succeeded Maharaja Malhar Rao in 1875, and in 1881 he was invested with full ruling powers. Into this short interval of 6 years, were crowded all the details of the knowledge that was deemed necessary to fit this youthful sovereign for his future responsible duties.

### **Progress in Baroda.**

The wisdom of the administration is seen in its educational progress. It is not easy to break through the fetters of immemorial custom and convince an ignorant people of the benefits of education. It is His



**His Highness the Maharaja Saheb at the age of 13.**

**Highness' belief that our minds must ever aspire to**

**"More pellucid streams,  
An ampler ether, a diviner air  
And fields invested with purpureal gleam."**

**Knowledge must be our object, knowledge which will enable us to do our duty. The first necessity of a modern State is an intelligent democracy and that His Highness is keenly alive to this fact can be seen from his speech. "It is dangerous to have in these days of democracy an ignorant and a suffering populace, for such a populace is liable to be moved by the first wind of anarchy and dogmatism," and thus for education, His Highness has led the way for British India by instituting free, compulsory primary education. Nor is the education of the depressed classes and forest tribes neglected. His Highness has developed his capital into one of the finest cities of India, a city of magnificent palaces and public buildings which bear witness not only to his artistic taste but to his solicitude for the advancement of his people. He has built a system of canals and reservoirs, materially increased the number and capacity of irrigating wells, spent immense sums in opening up new roads and has increased the facilities of communication. In 1881, the Railway mileage was only 60 but today Railway lines are constructed in every district and almost every taluka is connected with it and the State today boasts of about 524 miles of Railways, while about 120 miles are under construction. He has separated the Judicial from the executive functions, founded libraries, has built perfectly equipped hospitals and maintains an asylum with all up-to-date appliances, and has enacted a great deal of social legislation. Commercial enterprise has also received no little encouragement from the Maharaja and there are numerous joint stock companies in the State which include the Bank of Baroda founded in 1908 under the very able management of Mr. C. E. Randle. Although banking industry has passed through several vicissitudes, the Bank of Baroda is as flourishing as ever and at present is one of the most successful institutions in the State. A distillery has been established, while for the benefit of the agricultural population, experimental farms have been sanctioned and attention is given to the establishment of agricultural Banks and Co-operative Credit Societies which number about five hundred. In short**

there has been steady progress in every department of the State, worthy of its illustrious Ruler.

### **Ideals.**

In reply to the address given on the occasion of the Jubilee, His Highness said that ideals and theories were of no value, unless practical measures were adopted for the solution of the problems of life and when they were given privileges or rights, they must have moral strength to utilise them with wisdom and courage. A mere cry was not a test for fitness. Nationhood could be attained by work and seeking after truth.

In another speech full of thought, His Highness said " No people can rise till they have given up their social weaknesses and grasped all that is best in foreign cultures and adapted it for their own benefit. March boldly along with unflinching courage, dropping all that is rusted and out of date, utilise all your opportunities for the good of humanity and your own progress and welfare will be assured. "

" Study the past, " said His Highness, in another speech, " till you know what knowledge you can get from it which you can use in the present and add to it what the West can teach us especially in the application of Science to the needs of life. "

It will therefore be seen that the story of 50 years of his life is the story of the marvellous progress of Baroda from the dismal backwardness of 1875 to the model State of today.

### **The State of Baroda.**

A visitor to Baroda will always go with the impression that he has seen one of the best cities of India. It has not the natural advantages of Mysore or Shrinagar to whom nature has been more kind but His Highness has made Baroda a city of Palaces, and buildings, of gardens and good roads and fitted it with all the advantages of modern civilisation. If Baroda had the natural advantage of a fine and temperate weather of Mysore or the beautiful waters of Shrinagar. His Highness would have had finer gardens than the Nishat or Shalemar that now adorn remoter places, accessible only to the chosen few. But, it is the great " if " of John Ploughman and in spite of all adverse conditions,



**signs of progress are visible wherever you turn your eyes at this great Chandannagar of the Gaekwar.**

**As a boy, little did His Highness dream of his own capabilities and possibilities during the period of his beneficent rule. The introduction of a thousand reforms is the outcome of His Highness' untiring and personal zeal and devotion to duty. Like a good horseman as His Highness always is, he has never let loose the reins of Government whether he be in India or in Europe and has always guided the ship of**



**His Highness the Maharaja proceeding from the Palace to the Durbar Pavillion to receive the address from the people on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee.**

the State, through storms and troubles to a safe harbour, where his people have been able to breathe an air of calm and tranquillity which is so indispensable for the growth of a nation and all this is due to the indefatigable energy spent by the Maharaja for the welfare of the people and it is therefore no wonder that the people made a gigantic demonstration to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the greatest Ruler of Baroda in a most befitting manner.

### **The City of Baroda.**

**Like all ancient cities of India, Baroda has borne various names**

The ancient name was Chandanavati, the city of Sandalwood. It was changed to Viravati, the abode of warriors and again to Barpatre or leaf of the Banyan from which the transition to the modern Baroda is simple.

### **Area and Population.**

In size, the State is less than a third of the State of Mysore and a ninth of Hyderabad or Kashmere and is much smaller than some of the leading States of Rajputana. The total area is 8135 square miles while the population, according to the latest Census authority, Mr. S. V. Mukerjee, B. A. (Oxon) who is Suba of Baroda is a little over two millions and is therefore eighth in order among the Indian States.

The immense personality of the Ruler is largely responsible for the conspicuous success in administration and his wide experience and astonishing grasp of detail have familiarised him in a manner almost unique in the life history of modern Indian Rulers with the art of scientific Government.

### **Divisions.**

Baroda consists of four isolated divisions each of which is interlaced in the most intricate fashion with British territory or with other Native States. That portion which is situated in Gujarat is divided into the three districts of Kadi, Baroda and Navsari while the Kathiawar division is known as the Amreli district. The Okhamandal taluka which is inhabited by the turbulent Vaghers was formerly a part of the Amreli District and its administration was in the hands of a representative of the Imperial Government but since the rendition of sovereignty in May 1920 it has been regarded as a separate administrative division.

### **Old History**

The province of Gujarat was at one time included in the Mughal Empire but in the early part of the eighteenth century, the Mahrattas under the leadership of Maharaja Damaji and afterwards of his son Pilaji succeeded in wresting all power out of the hands of the Mughal officers. From that time, Baroda has remained continuously under the sway of the Gaekwar family who held it in the first instance under the Peshwa subject to a tributary payment but formed an alliance with the

**British Government under the guarantee of treaties of 1802, 1805 and 1817.**

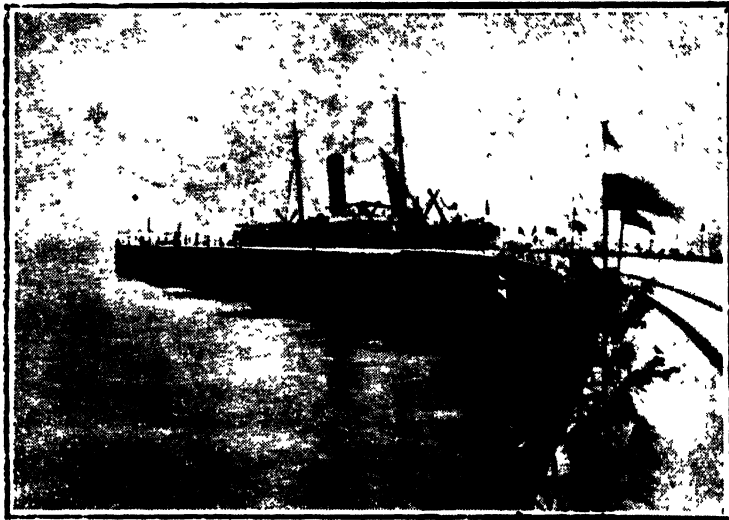
In the early nineteenth century, the British who had replaced the Peshwa twice obtained portions of State territory to subsidise their troops. At this time the State boundaries were more plainly demarcated as a result of treaties which effected exchange of territories and thus it is that the State continues to lack a geographical unity.

The State therefore has no uniformity of natural features, climate and rainfall. A great part of it consists of level country including portions of the alluvial formed from the slopes of the Vindhyan system. Here and there, the flatness is distributed by a few hills in Baroda, Salher in Navsari and the Gir Hills of Amreli. In point of scenery, the Baroda District is at its best, as you go by the Narbada from Chandod towards the old and famous temple of Sulpaneshwar where the natural scenery exhibited by the Vindhyan range is in no way inferior to the several beauty-spots in Kashmere. Kadi with its camels and pea-cocks is the least picturesque, Navsari, the most variegated with its alternations within a limited compass of cultivated land, hills, rivers, forest and the sea. Amreli is famous for its temperate climate while the Gir Forests abound in wild animals; and Dwarka is famous as a place of pilgrimage and thousands of Hindu devotees visit the old and historical temple of Shri Krishna from the towers of which a beautiful view of the sea and the surrounding places is obtained. From point of revenues Dwarka is not paying but on the contrary almost all its revenues are spent for the maintenance of the troops placed there.

### **The Gateway of Kathiawar**

But Dwarka is rising in importance and the construction of the famous gate way of Kathiawar, the harbour of Adatra is the greatest act of statesmanship of the Maharaja Sahib and is a permanent monument worthy of his able Minister Sir Manubhai Nandshanker who has been largely instrumental in carrying out the important scheme as well as many others under the guidance of His Highness. The harbour has cost Government several lacs and it is hoped that all the commercial activities of Kathiawar will be diverted to this port and it may come to

be regarded as one of the greatest ports of Kathiawar. His Highness' friend, His Highness The Maharaja Sir Krishna Raja Wadiyar G. C. S. I. of Mysore who paid a visit to Baroda soon after the Viceregal visit



**The Harbour of Adatra in Okhamandal.**

also visited Dwarka and was immensely pleased with all that he saw at this harbour which he characterised as the greatest and happiest modern work of the Maharaja.

### **Scarcity of Water**

Gujarat and Kathiawar are both famous for their scarcity of water but everything possible is done by Government to relieve the hard conditions due to a scanty rainfall. Money is spent on lakes and artificial reservoirs and everything possible is done to relieve misery. So far as Baroda is concerned, the artificial lake known as Syaji Sarover formed by the bunding up of the sources of the Surya River and the Vagli Nalla at a cost of about 35 lacs and constructed in 1890 supplies the capital with good potable water. The districts are not neglected. There are water works constructed in several places and



**SAYAJI SAROWAR.**

**This immense reservoir supplies the city with water.**

large amounts are spent on wells and boring. There have been several successful boring operations in the Kadi District and artesian wells have sprung up in several places, while the Mehsana water works which is the result of a successful bore have been opened by Shrimant Maharajkumar Pratapsinh Rao, grandson of His Highness the Maharaja Saheb.

#### **Diviner and his Methods-**

It would be of interest to note that for borings, the so-called water diviner has not escaped the attention of His Highness. It is difficult to say whether such divination is based on physical fact, wilful fraud or ignorant superstition. If he succeeds, well and good and the diviner is a great man and he has done a lot for humanity. If he does not, then, it is like so many other things that fail. After all, human knowledge is not perfect. To a layman, the whole process sounds more of the ridiculous. The water diviner cuts a forked twig, usually of hazel and holding the twig firmly in both hands in a horizontal position walks very slowly over the ground where it is hoped to find a spring. When the dowser passes over such a spring, the twig gradually moves in his hand, in a series of spasmodic movements into an upright position, which indicates the position of a subterranean spring and suggests that a well may be sunk there. The use of rods of one kind or another for purposes of divination dates back to an immense antiquity. With the exploits of Moses and Aaron and their competitors, all are more or less familiar and the rod of Aaron has become proverbial. The Romans had their 'Virgula Divina' and took auguries, by casting bits of sticks.

To return to the subject, the diviner has seen a considerable portion of His Highness' territories where water difficulties prevail and Government is doing its best to see that the boring operations prove successful, so that the people may be supplied with one of the main necessities of life and the greatest problem of life be solved.

#### **Preparations in Baroda.**

The visit of the Viceroy to this great historical city was a settled fact and every department set to work in right earnest

#### **Previous Visits.**

Lord Reading was the fifth Viceroy to pay a visit to His Highness

the Maharaja Saheb. His Excellency the Earl of Dufferin had paid a visit in 1886, His Excellency the Earl of Elgin in 1896, His Excellency the Earl of Minto in 1903, His Excellency the Lord Chelmsford in 1919 and thus His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir Rufus Daniel Isaacs, Earl of Reading, P. C. , G. C. B. , G. M. S. I. , G. C. V. O. , is thus the fifth representative of His Imperial Majesty who honoured Baroda with a visit. As early as 1875, King Edward VII as Prince of Wales had visited Baroda and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales paid a visit to His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar in 1921.

### **Relations with The Imperial Government.**

The relations between His Highness and the Imperial Government have always been most cordial and friendly. On the 1st of January 1877, His Highness was present at the proclamation of Queen Victoria, as Empress of India at Delhi and was invested with the title of Farzand-i-Khas-i-Daulat-i-Inglishia "Favoured son of the British Empire." In 1887, the Queen Empress conferred upon him at Windsor the insignia of G. C. S. I. and in 1892, upon Her Highness the Maharani Saheb the Imperial order of the Crown of India. The G. C. I. E. was conferred on His Highness in 1919. His Highness had observed "Loyalty has been considered in the East as one of the finest virtues in a people, but it should not be merely sentimental...it should be real, genuine, and active."

### **Lord Minto's Appreciation.**

His Excellency Lord Minto, in appreciation of His Highness' policy had said "I am aware of the labour Your Highness has devoted to the study of educational and social questions. The creation of your legislative council and your bold attempt to separate the exercise of judicial and executive functions has elicited the warm interest of the Government of India."

### **Central Committee.**

Preparations to receive the King's worthy deputy were now set on foot on a grand scale in accordance with past traditions and the dignity of the visit and a Central Committee consisting of Sir Manubhai Mehta Kt. C. S. I. as President and Rao Bahadur Govindbhai H. Desai Vice-President with Col. N. G. Shinde, Major R. S. Parah, the Khangi

**Karbhari and Mr. R. K. Randive, the Manager of the Huzur Political Office was formed to organise and look after all the arrangements. This Central Committee appointed thirteen sub-committees who were entrusted with the details of arrangements in accordance with the programme that was drafted for His Excellency the Viceroy's visit.**

### **Special Duty Officer.**

**The duty of looking after the comforts of Their Excellencies was entrusted to Mr. Krishnarao N. Panemanglor who was appointed Special Duty Officer at Makkarpura in charge of the arrangements at that Palace.**

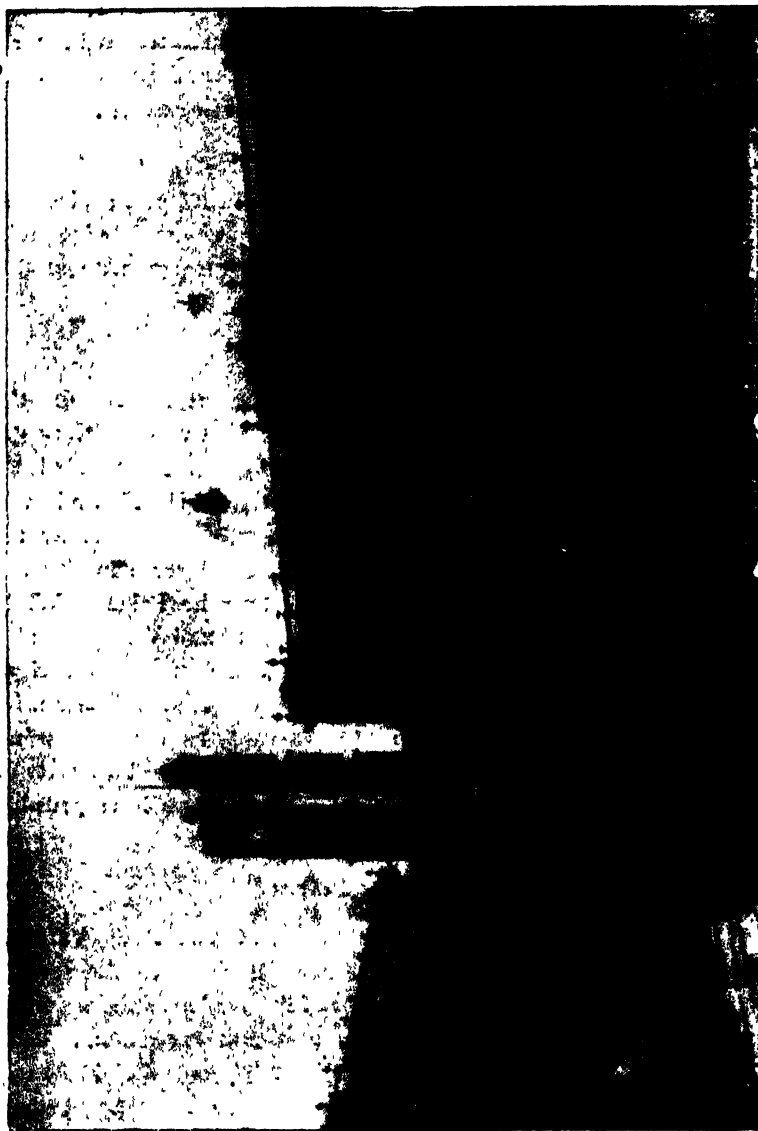
### **The Viceregal Residence.**

**The Makkarpura Palace was to be the residence of the distinguished guests during their stay at Baroda and it was therefore got up, every little detail being minutely and thoroughly attended to, to make the guests as comfortable as possible, Mr. L. H. Kharadi was responsible for the nice way in which the furniture was tastefully arranged at Makkarpura while Mr. Kothawala by his clever exhibition of flowers and plants introduced a living garden into the Palace. While these activities were going on at Makkarpura, the Laxmi Vilas was also being similarly got up for, as the favourite residence of the illustrious host, all the important functions were to take place in this beautiful Palace and Mr. A. L. Kazi, the Palace Sub Engineer was also no less busy and these labours were being supplemented by the able efforts of the State Electrical Engineer Mr. Baganna Balaji who is responsible for all the dazzling brilliance of the nocturnal functions.**

### **The Makkarpura Palace**

**The Makkarpura Palace with its fine and capacious gardens presents a very grand appearance in no way inferior to the several magnificent Palaces in the West and a view of the gardens obtained from the upper balconies of the Palace is glorious and enchanting. This Palace was the favourite residence of His Highness the Maharaja Khanderao and he daily issued forth to hunt in the magnificent deer preserves which adjoin it. The Makkarpura Palace has been much**





MAKKARPURA PALACE.

enlarged by the present Maharaja who uses it as his country residence. The new wing is in Italian renaissance style and was completed in 1890 and is connected with the old Palace by a long corridor in



**A View of the Makkarpura Gardens**

the centre. The residential quarters on the first floor of this new wing were to be occupied by Their Excellencies and their Secretaries while the old wing contained the principal dining room and quarters for other staff officers.

### **The Resident**

Several were the visits paid by Sir Manubhai Mehta to the Makkarpura Palace in company of the popular Resident Mr. E H. Kealy who with Mrs. Kealy examined each and every room of the Palace with the object of making things as comfortable as possible and in these attempts, they were all ably helped by Major H. M. Wightwick, the Assistant Resident and his clever wife who spared no pains to make the function a success. Mr. Kealy had also made a complete survey of the

Makkarpura gardens and grounds along with Col Egerton, the Commanding Officer of the Camp Regiment and Col. N. G. Shinde of the



**Mr. E. H. Kealey** C. I. E., I. C. S.  
**Resident of Baroda**

Baroda Army and Major R. S. Parab, the Khangi Karbhari with a view to find suitable spots for the British Regiment to camp on their arrival. The success of the Viceregal Visit has been largely due to the efforts of the able and popular Resident Mr. Kealy who, although ill and under treatment was directing the operations like an able general quietly from the Residency while Mrs. Kealy and Mrs. Wightwick with Major Wightwick worked hard at the Palace and looked to the minutest details that were wanted. It was indeed un-

fortunate that Mr. Kealy on account of his illness was not able to participate in the festivities but Mrs. Kealy ably supplied his place and it was a source of no small gratification to him to see that his labours were bearing good fruit. Their Highnesses were also sorry to miss Mr. Kealy during the several functions but Mr. Kealy had done his duty and in the interest of his health wanted rest.

#### **Work in the Offices**

Every office in Baroda was busy, but the Political office and the Khangi office were the busiest. They had to be in constant communication with the Residency and programmes had to be made and altered, to suit past precedents and the labour involved was considerable but it was a labour of love and no body grudged the extra work, Sir Manubhai Mehta managed things admirably as usual, for he is an adept in the art

and any change in the programme at the last moment would not disturb him. With his usual smile, placing his glasses on his forehead, as he always does when reading, he would look at things with a calmness and composure of mind which are peculiarly inborn in him. During his period as Dewan of Baroda, Sir Manubhai has had the honour of making arrangements for the reception of His Excellency Lord Chelmsford, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and now our present illustrious guest. Mr. Ramchandra K. Randive who as Manager of the Huzur Political Office had naturally so much to do in connection with the Viceregal visit dealt with things in a quiet but able manner, and with the assistance of Mr. Umakant B. Saiyadh of the office, both industrious and energetic, they were able to see that every thing was managed well.

The Khangi Karbhari Major R. S. Parab with the assistance of Mr. B. K. Bhate, the Naib Khangi Karbhari and Mr. F. S. Kale, Faras Khana Kamdar who also looked after the Viceregal establishment and the Officers of the Welsh Fusiliers Stationed at Makarpura, and Mr. M. M. Barot, the Swari Kamdar harmoniously co-operated with the Political Office and other offices of the State in order to bring about the uniformity of success which is the primary factor in all important functions.

It is a matter of common knowledge that on all auspicious occasions such as marriages or visits of distinguished personages, the general appearance of the residence and the city is made to appear as grand as possible and so it was with Baroda which was decorated not only outwardly but inwardly also owing to the efforts of the Sanitary and Health Departments who are primarily responsible for the health of the city. The sanitary arrangements were entrusted to Dr. N. V. Pandit who in co-operation with the Medical Department personally supervised every detail and was able to maintain a high standard of efficiency. The drinking water was examined by the State Bacteriologist and Deputy Medical officer Dr. Pranlal Nanavati and found free from obnoxious germs. As a matter of fact, the water of the Sayaji Sarover is excellent and proper filtering arrangements are made in the tanks at Nimeta, about five miles from the main lake, where the water is allowed to settle for 24 hours and then let out on the filter beds and then collected into a service reservoir of the capacity of nearly 7,00,000 cubic feet.

### **The Police.**

After every thing was done to beautify Baroda, the next step was to protect it and this was done under the able guidance of Rao Bahadur Bajirao Ghadge, the Police Commissioner of Baroda who had just rid Baroda of the greatest dacoit of Gujarat. The measures taken for the safety of the guests were naturally of a highly superior order. The force permanently stationed at the capital being inadequate to cope with the heavy work, arrangement was made to get officers and men of all ranks to the capital from the different districts. The Criminal Intelligence Bureau, Home Department gave the assistance of 15 detectives from the different presidencies and provinces of British India and Rao Bahadur N V. Trivedi, Deputy Superintendent of Police was deputed as officer of the Bureau.

All necessary police arrangements for the protection of the guests were entrusted to Rao Bahadur Ghadge who was in charge of the arrangements, while to facilitate the passage of servants and cars, passes were issued and distributed under Police supervision. As a matter of fact, the pass affair was becoming a troublesome business but it had to be done, as it was a matter of necessity and it was entrusted to his assistant Mr R. N Ghadge who was deputed to help the Commissioner at Makkarpura.

The outer cordon of the Palace ran around the Palace compound wall and was formed by a sufficient number of the State Police force while the inner cordon was formed by a detachment of British infantry and ran round the whole of the Palace, taking the central fountain in the front garden as the central point, while the main entrance was guarded by the military. The Viceregal block was isolated by the posting of intelligent men of the Police at the doors of the three corridors on the three floors connecting the old wing with the new.

The inside of the station was guarded by the Railway Police. The State had to preserve order outside. Public notifications were issued by Mr. S. V. Mukerjee as District Magistrate and also by Shrimant Pilajirao Gaekwad in the State Gazette or "Ajna Patrika," in good time directing the people to refrain from harbouring persons

with objectionable political tendencies and care was taken to clear the several routes of the procession of such undesirable people and it must be mentioned that the people also heartily and readily co-operated with the Police in managing the usual traffic and in the several arrangements that were to follow.

The entire length of the Railway line within Baroda State limits was guarded with a combined force of Police and village chokias and as the departure of the Viceregal train was to be at night, the police were provided with the necessary number of torches.

### **The Triumphal Arch.**

In the city, the Municipality under the direction of the President Dr. D. C. Talati paid special attention to the condition of the roads and



**The Triumphal Arch in Honour of the Viceregal visit.**

the whole city was decorated with buntings and flags in a manner befitting the occasion. The Triumphal Arch outside the station which was the work of the Public Works Department under the direction of

the Chief Engineer Mr. V. R. Talvalker was specially constructed to commemorate the happy event and there were thousands of spectators who flocked there to view the beautiful piece of work. The custom of building arches of the kind is a relic of the ancient Indian and also Roman custom when triumphal arches were specially constructed to commemorate a happy event such as a Victory or any important event of a domestic or political significance and it is worthy to note that this custom has still been preserved both in the East and the West.

### **Busy Scenes at Makkarpura**

Makkarpura was presenting a busy appearance. There were hundreds of men working in the beautiful gardens to make them appear in all the natural splendour possible while hundred others were busy at the Palace, attending to the furniture and other important decorations, while the Garden Department directed all their energies to make the little plants and flowers appear natural in the important rooms of the Palace. The work was almost complete and the special Post and Telegraph offices were duly located in the spacious compound to the left of the Palace while outside the gardens in front, a camp was pitched for the officers who were to form the Viceregal guard during the visit.

### **The 20th of January**

The 20th had arrived and the Makkarpura station of which one does not hear often now presented an animated scene. Hundreds of villagers had flocked to the station to see the British Regiment, for they had never seen one in their life and hardly had the Special containing

### **The Welsh Fusiliers**

arrived, than the soldiers alighted with bag and baggages, some admiring at the simplicity of the way side station that revealed, nothing of the splendour they heard of Baroda, others admiring at the flatness of the country that revealed neither hills nor lakes but all happy at the pleasure of alighting after a long and tedious journey, and soon motoring in the big lorries with the Royal Band and Colours towards the Palace ground which was to be their residence during the three eventful days, they made themselves quite comfortable in their new but temporary home. The cool

and bracing air with the pleasant surroundings afforded them immense pleasure and they were soon enjoying themselves but not forgetting the usual discipline for which the British regiments are famous all over the world.

The strength of the regiment was 6 officers, 4 warrant officers, 250 other ranks and 15 followers. The regiment was Commanded by Capt. E. Wodehouse, the other officers being Lt. M. B. Dowse, Lt. A Rhyo Price, Lt B. L. N. Trotman Dickinson, Lt. D. R. Evans and Lt. B. H. Hopkins adjutant. The Regiment had travelled all the way from Nasirabad and they were lucky in having a jolly good lot of officers who when off duty spent much of their time in sight seeing and admiring the beautiful spots of Baroda while their admiration for the great personality of the Ruler of Baroda was equally intense.

The officers were all accommodated in capacious tents and in the building which was formerly used as a theatre at Makkarpura. and they attended to duty first and took the first opportunity to confer in the spacious gardens while Sir Manubhai and Major Wightwick gave instructions as regards locating the guard and also stationing the guard of Honour for receiving the distinguished visitor on the following day.

### **Resident Officers.**

Everything was complete and Major Wightwick and Mr. Panemanglor both breathed a sigh of relief as they stood in the evening of the 20th on the terrace of the Makkarpura Palace where they were staying as Resident officers. "Thank God, I hope everything is alright" said Major Wightwick "To-morrow this time, we shall have a busy scene and how happy we shall be, if our guests are happy and comfortable!" The weather was cool and bracing while the garden lights were burning as bright as ever and the bronze bull and the statue of Hercules shone in the light of the moon that was resplendent in the sky. Like Lucretius, we felt that it was a wonderful thing to watch not the battle but the most gorgeous scene below, from the top of the tower and we said good bye, hoping to meet as fresh as ever on the following morn.



But art is long and time is fleeting and though everything was supposed to be complete, there were still little things which seemed to be unattended to and these were remedied. There is nothing perfect and the more one does, the more still remains to be done. "Great wits to madness kin allied" says the Poet and the famous cat story of the great philosopher Newton illustrates the absence of mind of even the best thinking mind.

And so, on the following morn there was a huge smile on Major Wightwick while Mrs. Wightwick and Mrs Kealy though fatigued by the worries naturally attendant on such functions seemed happy as the beautiful roses of the still more beautiful gardens.

Thousands of people from the neighbouring villages had thronged to Baroda to be able to witness the several functions for which preparations were made on a grand scale.

#### **Royal Guests.**

There were other Royal Visitors in Baroda also who were present on the auspicious occasion. Their Highnesses the Rajasaheb and Ranisaheb of Savantwadi and Her Highness the Maharani of Cooch Behar, with her son, the Young Maharaja who had specially come to participate in the Jubilee celebrations were specially detained by His Highness the Maharaja Saheb while the able and popular editor of the "Times of India" Mr. S. T. Sheppard and his wife were also among the distinguished visitors during the Viceregal visit.

#### **The Maharaja's Exercises.**

His Highness the Maharaja Saheb had his usual constitutional walk in the evening ; for in spite of any quantity of work, he never neglects his usual morning and evening exercises. Riding in the morning and tennis in the evening are his favourite amusements but if he is given to more thinking and wishes to have a quiet time, he prefers to walk. His Highness had left his Palace in the evening and was walking in his gardens and passing through the Indira Avenue proceeded to the Public Park. A brisk walk along the Band Stand and by the side of the Vishwamitri river and back to the gate completed an hour's exercise, and His

Highness got into the carriage which along with his Body-guards was waiting at the gate of the Park and which soon took him towards the Race Course from where in another twenty minutes His Highness was back at the Palace, fully satisfied that the preparations for the morrow were complete.

### **Inspiration.**

Every officer was most enthusiastic in his efforts to make the whole show as successful as ever, for the inspiration received from His Highness the Maharaja Sahib that prompted every one to make a sincere effort was alone responsible for the large success of the visit, His Highness' ideal being.

“ Pitch thy behaviour low, thy projects high,  
So shalt thou humble and magnanimous be ;  
Sink not in spirit ; who aims at the sky  
Shoots higher much than he that means a tree. ”



**" All places that the eye of Heaven visits  
Are to the wise man ports and happy havens. "**

## **CHAPTER II.**

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### **Veni.**

#### **The Twenty First.**

The long expected twenty first of January had arrived and the Special conveying the distinguished visitors was fast making its way towards Baroda. It was beautiful winter and the weather was fine and glorious.

" O Winter, Ruler of the inverted year,  
I love thee, all unlovely as thou seem'st  
And dreaded as thou art  
I crown thee King of intimate delights  
Fire-side enjoyments, home-born happiness "

#### **The Morning Ride.**

Everybody in Baroda was up earlier than usual and the city presented a gala appearance. His Highness had an undisturbed repose the previous night and wished to ride in the morning. The chabukswar was prompt at the Palace with two of His Highness' favourite Irish horses, Diana and Jewel to enable His Highness to select either of them, according to his fancy and His Highness after partaking of a little breakfast, was soon at the porch and in another minute was riding towards Vishwamitri gate. Capt. Sadekar, the A D. C. on duty accompanied His Highness, while the chobdar and the chabukswar also followed on

horseback and it was a pleasant ride indeed, passing through the Palace gardens and crossing the Railway line and the Vishwamitri river over which there is a stately bridge and straight to the Race Course. The country round about has the appearance of a pleasant park and the cool breezes add to it the odour of the wild flowers make the ride really enjoyable. There was as usual a slow trot to start with which gradually changed into a slow but steady canter which uniform pace His Highness kept up while he rounded the race course once or twice and there he alighted and got into the Rolls which was waiting for him according to the usual practice to take him to the Palace.

### **The Maharaja at Work.**

His Highness had however a busy morning in the Palace for there were visitors who wished to "catch" His Highness to enquire after his health while his Secretary Rao Bahadur G. B. Ambegaoker was busy in another room with important papers to be submitted for orders. His Highness loves work, "shop" as he calls it and was soon found busy in the so called Red Room of the Palace with his Secretary and papers, while the assistants Mr. V. G. Pendse and Mr. V. G. Modi kept up a regular current of papers so that His Highness could dispose of as much work as possible.

### **Rehearsals.**

The Police and the Military were at this time having their usual rehearsals and Sir Manubhai paid a visit once more to Makkarpura just in time to give instructions to the Welsh Fusiliers who had arrived on the scene and had taken a position between the two fountains of Makkarpura, to make themselves sure about the part they had to play in the evening. It was a grand march of theirs, with Band and Colours and it was thrilling to hear the music while the drummers provided enough entertainment by tossing the little sticks high in the air, keeping time to the music. Sir Manubhai conferred with the officers and Major Wightwick and after once more visiting the rooms which were allotted for the use of Their Excellencies, left the Palace. He had practically worked the whole of the previous night and had little or no sleep, as one could see from his tired looks, but he has wonderful energy and patience,

qualities which are necessary in times of severe strain. The peculiar horn of his car announced the Dewan's departure and when the Welsh Fusiliers had marched back to their quarters, one could see the garden people running to and fro with little flower pots to the Palace and there were hundreds of men and thousands of pots with millions of flowers and the sort of confusion reminded one of Green's description of the Battle of Sheriffmuir

" And we ran and they ran  
And they ~~ran~~ and we ran."

but there was nobody who "ran away."

### **Aqua Ajwa.**

It was now twelve when the assistants working in the adjoining room were anxiously looking at the clock while the "garson" took a glass of 'aqua ajwa' for His Highness. The Maharaja Saheb is particular about having a glass of cold water an hour before his meals and so regularly does he observe this habit that whether at work or at play, riding or driving, the water is carried in a jar so that he may have it at the proper time. Dr. Balabhai Nanavati, the "good, old Doctor" as His Highness calls him, indulges in this habit and it is possible that he may have impressed on His Highness the unique virtues of this wholesome practice.

It is only when His Highness was repeatedly told that it was time for lunch that he left the office room and got into the new electric lift of the Palace and soon joined Her Highness the Maharani Saheb and the other members of the family at lunch. Rao Bahadur G. B. Ambegaoker, despite the fact that it was a holiday, had worked the whole morning but he was cheerful and left the Palace with his usual smile while his assistants who were secretly watching His Highness' departure without being visible to him packed all the papers as fast as they could and made themselves scarce with equal mirth

### **The Elephants' Lunch.**

While His Highness was having lunch, his elephants had finished

theirs and were marching towards the station in all their glory to welcome the guests of the evening. It would be interesting to hear something about an elephant's lunch. He generally has two meals each weighing about 20 seers and large quantities of ghee or oil, Indian sugar, salt and pepper are used to make the cakes or Rotis for him, while about 6 maunds of grass get into his capacious stomach every day. It is therefore worth noting that an elephant's diet is as intricate as his toilette.

### **More About Elephants.**

An elephant procession has always been regarded as the grandest procession in India wherever Royalty is concerned and is one of the noblest sights. But the introduction of motors and aeroplanes has been a sort of dread to their reputation and one hears more of motor and carriage processions in these days, although it must be confessed that in Baroda the reputation of the elephants is still preserved.

At one time, there were 117 elephants in the Gaekwar's stables but the present number is 16 of whom 12 are male and of these five were on duty at the reception in the evening, the others being reserved for the sports of the following day. They all looked splendid, Sundargaj with the principal gold ambari, Kisangaj with the "gangajumni" ambari and Shriprasad, Rupkali and Krishnapari with the gold and silver ambaris, as they passed on, while thousands of spectators gazed with joy at the rare sight of these huge animals moving in all their glory, with the bearded Mahout Mahomed Ramjan and other attendants carrying the necessary weapons. It was on Kisangaj that His Highness rode on the Jubilee day to the Pavilion to receive the address of the people.

### **An Elephant's Toilette.**

Getting these elephants ready for a full dress parade is not an easy job. After they have had their bath in the morning, they are conducted to have their toilette which is not as simple as it appears. First, there is the painting on the face and for this, experts are engaged and as soon as the outline of the design has been chalked on the face, the water colour paint is applied speedily with a certainty of touch which can only be attained by long practice. On one elephant, there were painted



**Sur.dargəj with the Gold Ambari.**



tigers which were so drawn up on the sides of the face and head that the eye of the elephant on each side coincided with the tiger's eye, giving to the painted animals an extraordinary air of vitality and ferocity. On another, peacocks were painted in a similar way while the remaining had panthers and deer painted on them, and all the designs were pretty. Sundargaj with the gold amhari had earrings, bracelets and anklets of solid gold and there were decorations on his forehead and in fact he was so adorned that there was not much left to be seen of the original animal. A gay howdah on the back and bells round his neck are not sufficient in the way of attire but it requires the hand of an expert who has long been associated with elephants from his childhood to complete the decoration in the best manner possible according to tradition, as it is only he who can understand the complexity of this sort of toilette

### **The Route.**

And so these five elephants caparisoned with their gorgeous trappings, resplendent howdas, gold and silver ambaries and the peacock saddle provided a splendid show in front of the Railway Station, in the open ground in front of the Dutt Mandir while the Jilib with "tom toms" and music were drawn up in front of the elephants facing to the North. "The Zeriphatka Sahib Nobat"—the elephant carrying the two silver drums, weighing thirty two mounds, presented to His Highness' ancestor by the Peshwa also took up a prominent position here.

The gold and silver guns, the silver carriages and the caparisoned carriages were drawn up outside the main entrance gate of the Public Park and these attracted great attention. The trappings of the horse were scarcely less elaborate. His neck was covered on one side with silver and gold plates and his mane which hung on the other side was braided and lengthened by fringes relieved by silver and gold ornaments.

The entire length of the road from the Belbag as far as the Vishrambag Railway crossing via Kothi was lined on both sides by the State regiments of infantry and cavalry while from the Vishrambag Railway crossing to the main entrance of the Makkarpura Palace, the route was lined by the State Police, both foot and mounted, who took position between the regiments and the public at a distance of 50 to 100

yards; while from Vishrambag to Makkarpura, the route was entirely lined by the State Police. The Baroda Railway Station was decorated by the Railway authorities, who had spread the red cloth all over the platform and hung flags and bunting of different colours befitting the occasion and the Railway Police was located inside the station while in the open ground outside, a body of the State Police was detailed to preserve order and regulate vehicular traffic. The State Farraskhana had completed the decorating arrangements by the rich carpets and the luxurious furniture so that the platform looked more like a Reception Hall.

A Guard of Honour with Band and Colours from the 1/8 th. Punjab Regiment stationed in the Baroda Cantonment was drawn up on the up platform towards the Northern end, while a Guard of Honour of the State troops with Band and Colours was drawn up on the up platform towards the Southern end.

Although the arrival of the distinguished visitors was to be at 4 p. m., thousands of people from all the surrounding villages had already collected before 2 p. m. and every inch of space available was occupied by eager spectators who were anxious to have a look at the honoured guests. Great enthusiasm prevailed as practically the whole city turned out to accord a very hearty welcome to Their Excellencies.

#### **Escorting the Viceroy to Baroda.**

At 2 p. m. the Minister, Sir Manubhai N. Mehta Kt. C. S. I. and the First Assistant to the Resident started from the Baroda Railway Station by a Special for the Champaner Road Station to meet His Excellency the Viceroy on the border of Baroda territory and to escort him to Baroda, according to the usual custom and they waited at Champaner Station for the Viceregal Special.

#### **Location of Troops.**

While these things were in progress, the road from the Lodge gate of the Makkarpura Palace was lined on both sides by men of the 1/8 th. Punjab Regiment while a Guard of Honour of the Welsh Fusiliers was drawn up between the porch of the new wing of the Palace and that of the old wing to salute His Excellency on his arrival at the Palace.

### **At the Station.**

It was now three thirty and every one was feeling anxious as the time for arrival was drawing near. Major Wightwick, as Resident in the absence of Mr. E. H. Kealy, Col. Egerton, the Officer Commanding at Baroda, the Executive Officer, the Station Staff Officer and the Residency Surgeon had all arrived at the Station, while Rao Saheb D. K. Apte, the Indian Assistant to the Resident who was now representing the First Assistant Resident, had already left with Sir Manubhai for Champa. The British Officers took up their position on the station platform towards the Northern end while the nobles and high officials of the State took up their position on the platform towards the Southern end.

### **Arrival of the Maharaja at the Station.**

At 3-45, Shrimant Maharaj Kumar Dhairvashil Rao and Shrimant Maharaj Kumar Pratapsinh Rao accompanied by His Highness the Raja Saheb of Savantwadi arrived at the station, as could be seen from the demonstration of music outside the station and this demonstration became more enthusiastic and intense ten minutes later when the august Ruler of Baroda appeared on the scene and there was waving of handkerchiefs and cries of " Sayaji Rao Maharaj Ki Jai " all over the route.

Shrimant Maharaj Kumar Dhairvashil Rao is the youngest son of His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar. He was born in 1893 and received his education in Eastbourne, Ajmere, and Baroda, and later on obtained a King's Commission in the Indian Army and joined the Eleventh Lancers with whom he served in Mesopotamia. He is remarkable for his jovial and good nature and has earned a name in cricket and tennis in both of which he has obtained several prizes. He is as his name indicates literally the Prince of Courage.

His Highness was accompanied by Major B. V. Gaikwad and Capt. Sadekar Powar both A. D. Cs in full dress while the third Capt. Makbul Hassan waited at the Station. The Chobdar with gold mace and Naik headed the procession, while the former announced in a loud tone "*Nigaha Keejiye Salampar, Nigaha Rakhiye Maharaj, Nigaha Meherban Salam*" and His Highness the Maharaja Saheb with his usual genial smile arrived and received the the salutations of the officers assembled.

The main platform lends itself well to a large reception of the character of the evening's public function and it looked more like a Durbar Hall than a prosaic Railway Station with His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and the Maharajkumars all resplendent in their gorgeous



**Shrimant Maharaj Kumar Dhairyashil Rao.**

dresses, the Sardars and civil officers all in their Durbar uniforms with swords and gold embroidered "Dupattas," the Military officers in full dress and it was a brilliant gathering indeed.

### **The Maharaja's Decorations.**

His Highness the Maharaja Saheb looked charming in the 'Achkhanda' that he wore, with the star of the G. C. S. I. worn furthest from the left shoulder towards the right on the left breast, and the 'Star of Vikramaditya' to the left of the G. C. S. I. while just below was worn the G. C. I. E. The badge of Vikramaditya was suspended from the neck while the Riband and badge of the G. C. S. I. was worn across the right shoulder and all these decorations appeared grander on account of the beautiful pearl necklace that His Highness wore. The Maharajkumars also wore their decorations and medals and looked dignified with their majestic "Saphas" which were tied with a smartness peculiar to them. Maharajkumar Dhairyashil Rao wore the Military medals and the gold medal of the Rajavallabha Mandal while Maharajkumar Pratapsinh Rao wore that of the Vikramaditya Mandal. Both wore necklaces of priceless value.

### **Arrival of the Viceregal Special.**

His Highness had not long to wait. The station bell announced the approach of the Viceregal Special and punctually at 4, the train steamed into the platform and the Viceroy "venit" "How do you do, Your Highness," said His Excellency the Viceroy, as he alighted from the saloon and shook hands with the Maharaja Saheb, the chobdar uttering "*Nigaha Roobroo Nigaha Keetiyee, Nigaha Meherhan Salam*" while the British and Baroda Guards of Honour presented arms. The State artillery located in the open space in front of the Kedareshwar Mandir commenced firing the Royal Salute of 31 guns to announce the arrival. Immediately after His Excellency, Her Excellency Lady Reading alighted from the saloon and was received by His Highness the Maharaja Saheb.

### **Introductions.**

His Highness the Maharaja Saheb then introduced Shrimant Maharaj Kumars Dhairyashil Rao and Pratapsinh Rao and His Highness the Raja Saheb of Savantwadi to their Excellencies. Maharajkumar Pratapsinh Rao is His Highness' grandson, who generally appears reserved but is

really of a jolly nature and of an extremely pleasing disposition. He was born in 1908 and he received his education mostly in Baroda, though he has extensively travelled in Europe. He has passed the Matriculation of the Bombay University and is now devoting his time to higher education. He is fond of cricket and loves shooting and has bagged several tigers and lions, to his credit.



#### **The State Artillery Firing the Salute.**

The members of the Viceregal staff, Sir Manubhai Mehta and the Assistant Resident then alighted from the Special which then left for Makkarpura station to enable the servants to go to the Makkarpura Palace with the baggage.

Major Wightwick then introduced the Officer Commanding at Baroda and other British officers present as also his own staff to His Excellency after which Sir Manubhai N. Mehta, the Minister and the nobles and high officials present at the Station were introduced by him. After the Minister was introduced, Shrimant Sampatrao K. Gackwad, was

presented and then General W. Hesketh of the Buoda Army, Shrimant Anandrao Yeshwantrao Raje Pandhre, Nawab Mir Nuruddin Husse'nkhan,



**Shrimant Maharaj Kumar Pratapsingh Rao.**

Shrimant Narsingrao R. Ghorpade, Shrimant Ramchandrarao N. Ambegao-  
ker, Shrimant Dewan Bahadur Ganpatrao Gaekwad, Naib Dewan, Rao

**Bahadur Govindbhai H. Desai, Naib Dewan, Rao Bahadur G. B. Ambegaoker, Naib Dewan and Huzur Kamdar, Mr. A. N. Datar, the Sar Suba, Mr. G. K. Dandekar Chief Justice, Mr. C. E. Randle, Manager of the Bank of Baroda, Mr. A. T. Houldcroft, Engineer-in-chief for Railways, Mr. Ramlal H. Desai, Joint Sar Suba, Mr. N. K. Dixit, Commissioner of Education, Dr. R. B. Chandrachud, Chief Medical Officer, Mr. V. D. Satghare, Legal Remembrancer, Major R. S. Parab, Khangi Karbhari, Shrimant Chintamanrao N. Muzumdar, Mr. R. K. Randive, Manager Huzur Political Office and the three A. D. Cs to His Highness the Maharaja Saheb, Major Bhausahab Gaekwad, Capt. A. G. Sadekar Powar and Capt K. Makbul Hassan who were all specially invited to be present at the Station.**

**The first assistant Resident thereupon presented the British and Indian officers to Her Excellency Lady Reading.**

### **The Guards of Honour**



**The Viceroy Inspecting the Guards of Honour at the Station.**



When the ceremony of introduction was over, His Excellency the Viceroy accompanied by His Highness the Gaekwar, the Resident and His Excellency's Personal and Military Staff inspected the British and the Baroda guards of Honour, and after complimenting the men on their smartness returned to the centre of the platform and the whole party proceeded to the Station porch in order to take their departure, the chobdar loudly uttering "*Ilahee Kher Umar Dowlatjada.*"

#### **A Cordial Welcome.**

As soon as His Excellency approached the steps of the Railway station' the "Jilib" with "tom toms" and music drawn up in front of the caparisoned elephants began to play giving the guests an idea of the



#### **The Viceroy Leaving the Station.**

enormous sound produced by a mixture of a hundred instruments all played at one and the same time but discordant as they all were, they were all harmonious in the one idea namely that of giving a most cordial

welcome to the guests and even the elephants were waving their beautifully coloured trunks to and fro, in joy.

It was a right Royal welcome and the scene outside the station was even more attractive, being on a larger and more spectacular scale.

### **The Procession.**

Two squadrons of the State cavalry headed the procession and two Police officers rode on either side of the Royal carriage which was drawn by six horses, but to the rear of the Military officer, Major Hakim, who was commanding the escort. This carriage contained His Excellency the Viceroy, His Highness the Maharaja Saheb, Major Wightwick, the Resident and Col. R. B. Worgan, Military Secretary to the Viceroy.



### **The Procession.**

It was the State postilion and looked magnificent, with the chobdar riding in front and the State page ( " chhatriwalla " ) holding the red silken umbrella over the host and the guest. Then followed another squadron of the State cavalry and the second carriage drawn by four

**horses which contained Her Excellency Lady Reading, The Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Thompson, Political Secretary to the Government of India, Col. J. Norman Walker, Surgeon to the Viceroy and Capt. J. D. Gage Brown A. D. C. to His Excellency.**

**The third carriage drawn by four horses contained Shrimant Maharajkumar Dhairiyashil Rao, Sir Geoffry de Montmorency, Private Secretary to the Viceroy, and Capt. T. M. Lunham and Capt. A. C. L. Maclean. A. D. Cs. to the Viceroy, while the fourth landau also drawn by four contained Shrimant Maharaj Kumar Pratapsingh Rao, Sir Manubhai N. Mehta, and Major B. V. Gaikwad A. D. C. to His Highness. The last in the procession contained Rao Bahadur G. B. Ambegaoker, Secretary to His Highness, Major R. S. Parab, the Khangi Karbhari and Captains Sadekar Powar and Makbul Hassan, A. D. Cs. to His Highness. Another squadron of the State cavalry, the State Guards, the Resident's escort and the Minister's escort that followed completed the line of the procession,**

**The procession passed through the triumphal arch and leaving the Sayaji Clock Tower on the right and the College on the left proceeded towards the Maharaja's statue in front of the Public Park. This equestrian statue of His Highness attracted the attention of the Viceroy, for it was indeed a beautiful piece of art. The statue which is in bronze and cost four thousand pounds is the work of Derwent wood, and was erected by His Highness' grateful and loving subjects in commemoration of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of His Highness' 25 years' administration of the State in 1907. Here by the side of the statue, was kept the famous silver chariot or "Ratha" and the bullocks looked splendid in their rich ornaments.**

**A little further, the procession passed over the bridge on the Vishwamitri which during the summer months is but an insignificant stream and often runs quite dry but during the monsoon frequently overflows its banks and spreads far and wide over the level country, on either side. to the great mortification of all passenger and vehicular traffic. Here on the left is the little monument built in memory of His Highness' worthy father Shrimant Kashirao Sahab and further on**



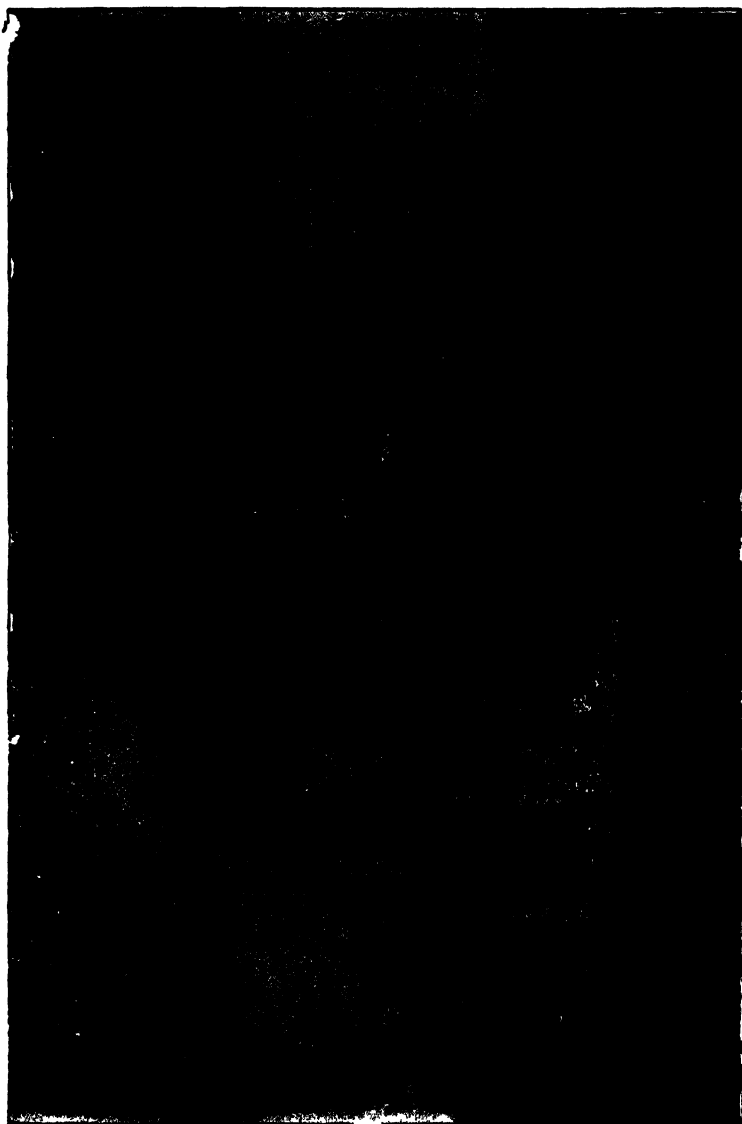
**The Silver Chariot.**

leaving the Hospital to the right and the Kedareshwar temple to the left, the procession hurried towards the Secretariat Buildings. Another ten minutes on the Raopura road brought the Royal carriage in front of the Nyaya Mandir and the Sursagar tank where the scene is a little more picturesque and then the procession passed through the Palace Road, known as the Chamrajendra Road, named after His Highness the late Maharaja Saheb of Mysore, in commemoration of his visit to Baroda. One could see the beautiful Laxmi Vilas in front with its picturesque towers and His Highness' State flag, the "Bhagwa Janda" flying in all its glory and another ten minutes' drive to the left by the Palace gate brought the illustrious party to the Vishrambag level crossing where the party got into motor cars for the rest of the journey.

The demonstration of joy on the face of the spectators all along the route was unparalleled. Those who were more enthusiastic cried for joy and uttered words of sweet welcome; while the quieter ones and they were more prayed silently for the long life and prosperity of the host and the guest. The school children sang little hymns as the procession passed and showered flowers on the carriages and the several regiments en route presented arms, the Band playing the national anthem.

### **The Motor Procession.**

It was now five thirty as the party got into the cars at this junction and as it was a motor journey, it took the motors only about fifteen minutes to complete the journey. The first car contained His Excellency the Viceroy, His Highness the Maharaja and the Military Secretary to the Viceroy. The second car was occupied by Her Excellency Lady Reading, the Political Secretary to the Government of India and one A. D. C. to the Viceroy. The third car contained the Resident, Shri mant Maharajkumar Dhairyashil Rao and another A. D. C. to the Viceroy while the fourth carried the Private Secretary to the Viceroy Shrimant Maharaj Kumar Pratapsingh Rao and the third A. D. C. to the Viceroy. The fifth was occupied by Sir Manubhai, the Surgeon to the Viceroy and one A. D. C. to His Highness while the sixth brought Rao Bahadur G. B. Ambegaoker, Major R. S. Parab and the remaining two A. D. Cs. to His Highness.



**Laxmi Vilas Palace.**

At Vishwamitri, the escort was dispensed with and a pilot car was run by the Police Commissioner three hundred yards ahead of His Excellency's car and a tail car by Rao Bahadur Trivedi, Deputy Superintendent of Police and Mr. J. Douglas, Inspector of the Viceregal Police Guard at a similar distance and this procedure was followed on all the ceremonial occasions.

### **Arrival at Makkarpura.**

The people at Makkarpura were now getting anxious and the Royal Welsh Fusiliers with Band and Colours were ready in the garden between the two marble fountains that displayed a rare variety of flowers of every colour and kind. The fountains were not playing, as the anti-malarial instincts prevailed over the aesthetic tastes and it was thought dreadful for the musical mosquito to disturb the thrilling tunes of the Fusiliers.

It was now six when His Excellency's car motored into the porch of Makkarpura and a Royal salute of 31 guns was fired by the State artillery located in the open fields outside the Palace on the West while the Welsh Fusiliers presented arms.

The huge Union Jack was flying in all its glory from the tower of Makkarpura Palace. In the words of an American statesman,

“ Her flag waves on every sea and in every port, and the morning drum beat of her soldiers following the sun and keeping company with the hours, circles the earth with one continuous strain of the martial airs of England.”

### **Inspection of the British Guard.**

His Excellency the Viceroy alighted from the car and accompanied by His Highness the Maharaja Sahib and the Resident inspected the Guard of Honour of the British Infantry after which His Highness took His Excellency to the Palace.

### **Lady Reading's Arrival.**

Her Excellency Lady Reading had now arrived and as there are no lifts at Makkarpura and she had not yet quite recovered and was still

weak, a sedan chair was kept for her use and she got into it and was soon carried upstairs to her apartments, as she preferred to have her tea quietly. It was indeed most fortunate that though weak, she was able to accompany her husband. One could see how tired she was, after the long journey but she shook hands with the officers present and said " Oh, I am quite well, thank you so very much " with her sweet smile, as she was being carried in the chair.

#### **Tea at Makkarpura.**

Tea was served in the main drawing room and the officers all had a ' jolly good tea ' as they called it. Here, the principal introductions took place and good hot tea soon set at naught the fatigues of the journey. There was no more " coming " and " coming " but His Excellency the

Viceroy had come and was now having tea with His Highness and the Maharajkumars in Her Excellency's drawing room. His Highness congratulated Lady Reading on her recovery and said he was delighted that she was able to visit Baroda, to which Her Excellency replied that she was determined to see



**His Excellency and His Highness in the Garden.**

Baroda and its Ruler of whom she had heard so much and that is why she got well so quickly. His Highness smiled and Their Excellencies profusely thanked His Highness for his kind expressions of welcome.

#### **Departure of His Highness.**

A few minutes later, His Highness took leave of his worthy guests and departed in his beautiful Rolls while the Band played and the Guard of Honour of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers presented arms to His Highness. Sir



Manubhai and the Maharajkumars also said good bye and left the Palace.

### **A stroll in the Garden.**

The guests assembled in the drawing room were yet partaking of tea and were smoking and talking as loud and freely as they could when all of a sudden there was silence and a stately figure in plain grey suit, lighting a cigarette stood at the door. "I do not want to disturb you" said Lord Reading, as he, suddenly turned round, "I am going to have a stroll in the garden." The song of birds meets his ear and the sweet odour of the fine roses sweetens the air and His Excellency preferred to enjoy a brief but quiet walk in this daint bower of bliss where

"The joyous birds shrouded in cheerful shade

Their notes unto the voice attempered sweet;

The angelical soft trembling voices made

To the instruments divine response meet."

### **The Viceregal Party.**

The Viceregal party consisted of seven officers and 2 ladies with about 15 members of the clerical establishment and about 75 servants.



**The Hon'ble Sir John P. Thompson**

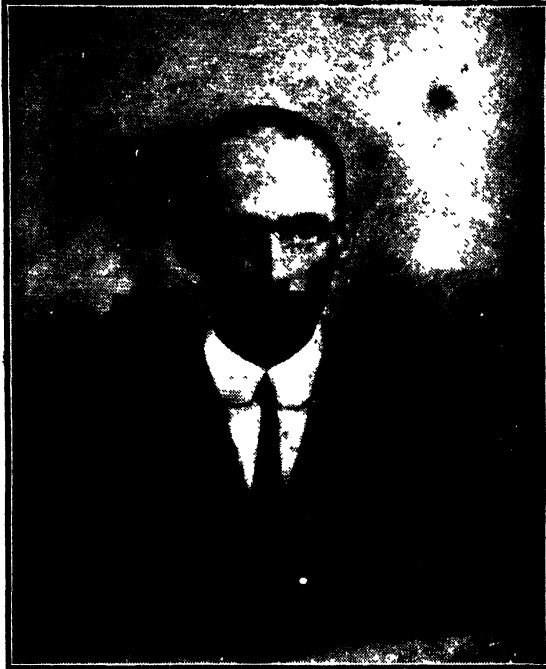
K. C. I. E., C. S. I., M. A., I. C. S.

The Hon'ble Mr. John Perronet Thompson C. S. I., M. A., I. C. S., was Political Secretary to the Government of India. He had received his education at the Leeds Grammar School and later on Trinity College, Cambridge, where he had obtained first class honours in classical tripos.

He was Revenue Secretary to the Punjab Government, was member of the Legislative Council, member of the Reforms Committee, Secretary to

the Orders of the Star of India and the Indian Empire, Secretary to the Chamber of Princes and member of the Council of State.

Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency K. C. V. O., C. I. E., C. B. E., I. C. S.,



**Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency K. C. I. E.,**

K. C. V. O., C. B. E., I. C. S.,

has been Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy. He was Chief Secretary to the Punjab Government for some time. He has a long connection with Delhi, having been connected with the transfer of the capital there in 1912 and later, rose to officiate as Chief Commissioner.

He was Colonisation officer. Jhelum and Chenab Colonies

and worked as Chief Secretary to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales during his Indian tour in 1921-22. In 1922, he became Private Secretary to Lord Reading whom he accompanied when the Viceroy went on leave to discuss Indian affairs with the Secretary of State.

**Col. Rivers Berney Worgan C. S. I., C. V. O., D. S. O.,** has been  
**Military Secretary to**  
**His Excellency the**  
**Viceroy since 1923.** He  
 was educated at the  
 Bedford School and at  
 the Royal Military  
 College, Sandhurst and  
 he entered the army in  
 1900 and served  
 through twenty months  
 of South African Cam-  
 paign winning two me-  
 dals, served in the Eu-  
 ropean War 1914-18,  
 in the Afghan War and



**Waziristan Campaign**

**1919-20. Col. Worgan**

**Col. Rivers B. Worgan,**

**C. S. I., C. V. O., D. S. O.,**

was **Military Secretary** to the Duke of Connaught during his tour in  
 India, when he was awarded a **C. V. O.** and as **Military Secretary** to  
**H. R. H. the Prince of Wales** during his Indian tour, he was created a  
**C. S. I.**



**Sister Meikel**

Among the ladies that accompanied Their Excellencies were Miss Charnand and Sister Meikel. The former was Secretary to Her Excellency Lady Reading while Sister Meikel looked after Her Excellency.

Capt. T. M. Lunham, Capt. A. C. L. Maclean and Capt R. D. Gage Brown were A. D. Cs to His Excellency, the Viceroy. With their smartness and pleasing manners, they soon became popular wherever they moved.



**Miss Charnand**

**Sir Norman Walker Kt. M. D , L. L. D.,** accompanied the Vice-regal party as Physician to H. E. the Viceroy.



He was formerly Treasurer of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and was corresponding member of the American, French and Danish Dermatological Societies. He also worked as direct representative for Scotland on the general medical Council and was Inspector of Anatomy for Scotland. Sir Norman is noted for his jovial nature which made him very popular wherever he went

**Sir Norman Walker Kt. M. D , L. L. D.,**

### **The Problem of Passes**

The heavy luggage belonging to the Viceregal party was now quickly transported to Makkarpura and arrangements were being made to take them to the Palace. The Police had a problem before them, as to how the passes should be distributed and what instructions should be given to the coolies but there was not much time to be lost and while the pass problem was yet being solved and much lecturing done, the baggage had already reached its destination and the coolies had left. It was like the Professor lecturing on lung troubles to the medical students and pointing to the patient who was a soldier in the Band, he explained scientifically how the constant blowing had affected the windpipe and lungs. Then turning to the patient, "Young man," said he, "what

instrument do you blow?" "The big drum," replied the soldier, coolly!

### **The Viceregal Establishment.**

The establishment of His Excellency was accommodated in a portion of the Palace grounds known as the Mankaris' quarters which are connected with the main Palace garden by a small bridge over a nullah which runs on the west of the main garden. The clerical establishment consisted of four European and six Indian assistants.

### **The Maharani Saheb at Makkarpura.**

Her Excellency had just finished her tea and was having a quiet

talk with Mrs. Kealey and, surveying the gardens from the window of her room when the sound of the Hispano car announced that Her Highness the Maharani Saheb was nearing the Palace to pay a private visit to Her Excellency Lady Reading. Her Highness was received at the porch by Capt. Maclean A. D. C. to His Excellency who conducted Her Highness to Her Excellency's Drawing room on the first floor of the Palace where Her Excellency received her near the threshold. Her Highness was accompanied by her daughter Her Highness the Maharani of Cooch Behar and her



**H. H. The Maharani Indira Devi of  
Cooch Behar.**

daughter-in-law Shrimant Shakuntala Raje. The Private Secretary to

Her Highness and Capt. V. G. Powar A. D. C. to Her Highness followed her in a separate car and waited in the drawing room below.

Maharani Indira Devi of Cooch Behar, the only daughter of His Highness the Gaekwar is a lady of great charm and remarkable intelligence. She is an undergraduate of the Bombay University and has travelled all over the world with her learned parents. She is fond of tennis, riding and hunting and is known for her genial and kind disposition. She takes keen interest in the welfare of her State, personally looking after its administration and the advancement of her people.

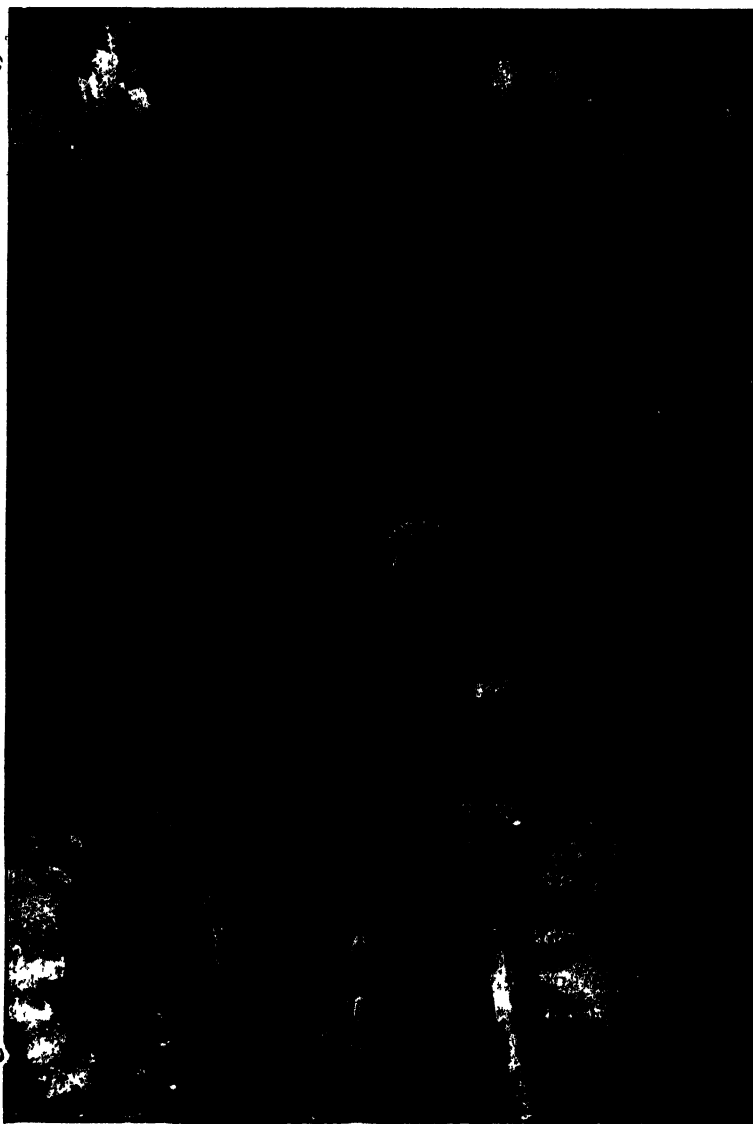
Her Excellency was delighted to see the Maharani Saheb with her daughter and daughter-in-law and the joy was mutual, and after a pleasant conversation of about thirty minutes, Her Highness the Maharani Saheb and the ladies left the drawing room and within a few minutes, the beautiful Hispano fitted with silver and gold had passed the Vishram Bag level crossing and was fast making its way to the Laxmivilas.

#### **Mizaj Pursi.**

A little later, according to the usual custom prevailing in the East, four of the principal officers of the State, Shrimant Ramchandra Rao N. Ambegaoker, Mr. V. K. Dhurandhar, Chief Justice, Mr. N. K. Dixit, Commissioner of Education and Shrimant Shanker Rao Gangadhar Shastri Patwardhan called at the Viceregal residence to enquire after His Excellency's health. They were received in the porch of the old Palace by Capt. Gage Brown A. D. C. to the Viceroy who conducted them up the steps of the Palace. The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson, Political Secretary and Col. Worgan, Military Secretary received them on the top of the steps and conducted them to the small drawing room to the left. The Viceregal staff sat on one side and the members of the Deputation on the other and after a few minutes' conversation the Political Secretary gave garlands, bouquets, Lavendar, attar and pin to the officers and the officers departed, the same ceremony being observed on their departure, as on their arrival.

#### **The Makkarpua Garden.**

At this time, Lord Reading was having his constitutional in the



**The Artificial Lake at Makarpura.**



garden and admiring the several little bridges, the Chinese Pagodas and artificial lakes that adorn the finest garden in Baroda. This garden was laid by Mr. Goldring, partly in English and partly in Italian style at a cost of 3 lacs and occupies about a hundred acres. It contains marble fountains, grottoes, pavilions, marble and bronze statues and numerous other embellishments. There are beautiful grass lawns and gravel walks and there is a band stand with good lines of polyathia longifolia, on either side, clipped in French style, forming into good pyramids. Add to it, there is a small sunk garden with marble kiosk in the middle and a marble path leading to it.

Nothing equals the beauty and the delight of a summer spent in the Makkarpura garden. It is a delight made of green leaves and grass and sun-shine, blue skies and little artificial brooks. Here in the garden, on the beautiful lawn, has His Highness spent many a day, in the delicious sun-shine, under the trees, on a summer day, listening to the music of the fountains and the sweeter music of the birds and watching hundreds of pigeons and swans that would gradually come nearer and nearer and be fed by him.

This is not idleness but an excellent form of recreation so necessary to persons in exalted positions, holding vast responsibilities on whom depends the happiness of millions of people. And so it was that Lord Reading with his Private Secretary was moving slowly to and fro admiring nature and enjoying a little quiet rest which was so necessary after the long and tedious journey.

In this place, tempting the mind to banish care and forget affairs of State, the most arduous business is sometimes conducted and "tippans" concerning the interest of thousands are disposed of by His Highness. —

The garden contains innumerable varieties of plants and flowers

“ And Ladysmocks all silver white

Do paint the meadows with delight ”

while the woods beyond are even more beautiful.

“ So wondrous wild the whole might seem ,

The scenery of a fairy dream ”

and so it is no wonder that His Highness believes more in practical education and thinks that earth and sky, lakes and rivers, woods and fields, the mountain and the sea are all better school masters than books.

The Makkarpura garden which was now lit appeared grander in the beautiful dazzling light, the grounds being lighted by means of gas and electricity. His Excellency had a good constitutional walk in this fine garden for about an hour and it was now high time to return to the Palace and change for Dinner and so Lord Reading returned to his apartments and took a hot bath and was soon ready for the function of the evening.

### **Dinner at Makkarpura**

The dinner at Makkarpura was to be at 8. 30 and guests began to arrive at 8. 15. The big Drawing room on the ground floor of the old wing was converted into a dining room for the use of the guests and with the hundreds of beautiful palms and other plants placed all round and the beautiful paintings hanging on the walls, the room looked pretty while the electric chandeliers lent an additional charm to the scene. Mr. Framji of Simla who was catering during the visit had the table decorations attended to and the little white and red flowers scattered on the table in dainty little silver pots was a marked contrast to the picturesque corners of the room. The room in front but on the other side of the main stair case which contains the fine tapestry work on the walls was to be the waiting room for the guests. A temporary band stand was erected outside where the Band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was located, to play during intervals at dinner.

Shrimant Maharajkumar Dhairyashil Rao arrived at 8. 30. and was having a game of billiards with Sir Norman Walker in the new Palace but had to be disturbed ten minutes later when both of them hurriedly repaired to the waiting room in the old wing. The other guests all arrived punctually, Shrimant Maharajkumar Pratapsinh Rao, Sir Manubhai and Lady Mehta, Col. and Mrs. Egerton, Shrimant Dewan Bahadur Ganpatrao Gaikwad, Shrimant Sampatrao Gaikwad and Lt. Trotman Dickinson, Officer commanding the Guard while the party residing at Makkarpura consisting of Mrs. Kealy, Major and Mrs. Wightwick and Mr. K. N.

Panemanglor soon joined them in the drawing room.

Sir Manubhai, son of Rao Bahadur Nandshankar Tuljashankar,



**Nek Namdar Sir Manubhai Nandshanker Mehta,**

**Kt. C. S. I., M. A. LL. B.**

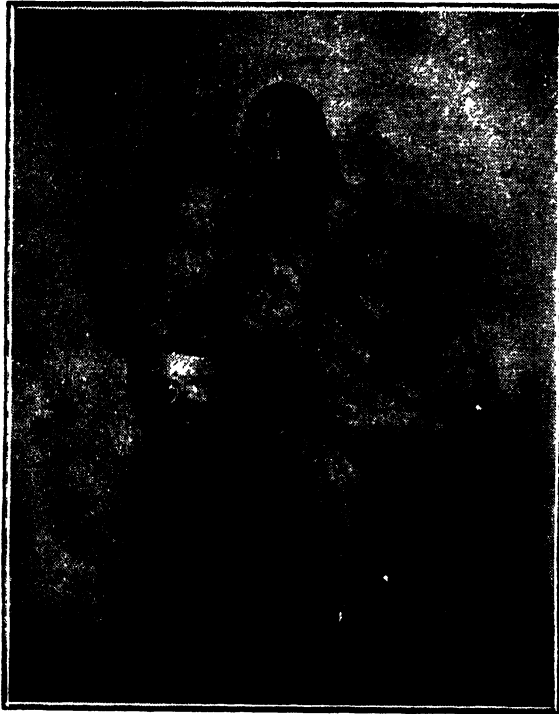
**author of the famous novel "Karan Ghelo" and formerly administrator**

of the Rajpipl State and Dewan of Cutch, was born in 1868 and educated in Bombay where he obtained honours in History and Economics. He was Professor of Logic and Philosophy at the Baroda College where he won the grateful admiration of all his pupils by his learned and lucid exposition of these hard and abstruse subjects. He was then appointed Private Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and as such he accompanied His Highness to Europe. He successively held the positions of High Court Judge, Revenue Minister, Naib Dewan and Amatya and has been the twelfth Dewan of Sir Sayaji Rao who is the thirteenth Maharaja of Baroda. He stands pre-eminently high among the past and present Ministers of Indian States and his advice is freely sought by every one in all problems of importance. In spite of the arduous task of administration, Sir Manubhai has managed to find leisure to follow his literary pursuits and has published several books among which may be mentioned " Hind Rajasthan, " " Akbar " and the " Principles of the Law of Evidence. " He is known for his love of justice and sympathy which is as deep as his learning and culture while his touches of wit and humour are a delight to all.

To use the Maharani Saheb's words, he is remarkable for his " wonderful and incredible patience " and has never been known to be in a temper. He is trusted and loved by all classes of the people while by his thorough grasp and deep insight into the affairs of the State and by his unerring judgment, he has made himself one of the most successful Dewans of Baroda, and His Highness, in appreciation of his sterling qualities conferred on this " guide, philosopher and friend " the order of the Raj Ratna Mandal in 1910 and the order of the Udayaditya Mandal in 1917, while His Majesty the King Emperor was graciously pleased to confer on him the G. S. I. in 1919 and a Knighthood in 1922.

The members of the Viceregal party were already with the guests, busy, as people generally are on such occasions. A little later, His Highness the Maharaja Saheb accompanied by Her Highness the Maharani Saheb and their daughter Her Highness the Maharani of Cooch Behar with Capt. Sadeker Powar A. D. C. arrived at Makkarpura and were received by the Political Secretary who conducted them to the Drawing room where all the guests had assembled. On Their Highnesses being announ-

ced, all the guests stood up and bowed while immediately from the other side of the Drawing room, Capt. Maclean and Capt. Lunham A.D.Cs in mess dress entered, the former announcing " Their Excellencies. " His Excellency wore the star of the G.C.S.I. while Lady Reading with her necklace of pearls and decorations looked charming in her pink gown.



**Lady Dhanvanta Mehta.**

Both Their Excellencies shook hands with all the guests present, Lord Reading first and Lady Reading following and after shaking hands with Their Highnesses who were at the other end proceeded to the Dining room, His Excellency taking Her Highness the Maharani Sahib and His Highness, Lady Reading. The following then marched in pairs, Maharajkumar

Dhairyashil Rao with Mrs. Kealy, Maharajkumar Pratapsingh Rao with Miss Charnaud, Major Wightwick with Lady Dhanvanta mehta, Shrimant Sampatrao with Sister Meikel, the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson with Mrs. Egerton, Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency with the Maharani of Cooch Behar and Sir Manubhai with Mrs. Wightwick. The remaining gentlemen took care of themselves.

His Highness the Maharaja Saheb wore his 'Achkan' and the star of the G.C.S.I. with the emerald necklace while the Maharani Saheb wore a pretty sari of a pale blue colour and wore the Order of the Crown of India. The Maharani of Cooch Behar, more popularly known as Princess Indira looked pretty in her ear-rings and the cream coloured sari while Lady Dhanvanta looked dignified in the Benaresi purple.

Lady Dhanvanta Mehta is an highly accomplished lady of great culture. She is seemingly of a reserved disposition but of an extremely pleasing and simple nature and takes great interest in the course of social progress and with the kind and gracious help from Her Highness the Maharani Saheb, she has done much to infuse new life into the several Ladies' Clubs of Baroda, with the idea of promoting a spirit of co-operation and making them useful members of society.

### **The Band.**

During dinner, the Band of the Fusiliers played a good selection of music, the latter portion of which could not be properly followed, as everybody was enthusiastic in his talk and it had more the appearance of a jolly good club dinner than something too official where a few perhaps would sit "like their grandsires cut in alabaster." And so, while "Poulet a l'Imperiale" and "Noisetta d' Agneau a la Alexandra" were being served, Sir Norman was admiring the exquisite painting on the wall, representing a Turkish scene in which thousands were marching over the bridge of boats towards the great Mosque of the Imperial city and the admirable scene fitted well with the colour and decorations of this old drawing room now transformed into a pretty dining hall, rendered still prettier by the admirable personalities present on the occasion.

# Makkarpura Palace.

## TABLE PLAN.

*Thursday, 21st January 1926.*

Capt. A. G. Gage  
Brown, A. D. C.

Capt. A. C. L. Maclean A. D. C.  
Lt. B. L. N. Trotman Dickenson,  
O. C. the Guard  
Col. Worgan  
Shri. Maharaj Kumar  
Dhairyashil Rao  
Mrs. Kealy  
H. H. The Maharaja Saheb  
H. E. Lady Reading  
Major Wightwick  
Lady Dhanvanta Mehta  
Shri. Maharaj Kumar  
Pratapsinh Rao  
Miss Charnaud  
Shri. D. R. Ganpatrao Gaikwad  
Capt. Sadekar Powar,  
A. D. C. to H. H.

TABLE.

Lieut. Colonel Egerton  
Sister Meikel  
Shri. Sampatrao Gaikwad  
Mrs. Egerton  
The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson  
H. H. the Maharani Saheb  
H. E. The Viceroy  
H. H. The Maharani of  
Cooch Behar  
Sir. Geoffrey de  
Montmorency  
Mrs Wightwick  
Sir. Manubhai N. Mehta  
Col. Norman Walker  
Capt K. N. Panemanglor

Capt. T. M. Lunham,  
A. D. C.

Entrance.

At the conclusion of the Dinner, the Band played the National Anthem and His Excellency the Viceroy proposed the toast of His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor which was drunk most enthusiastically. Coffee was served and the fragrant weed was freely indulged in, after which Their Excellencies and Their Highnesses with all the guests proceeded to the Darbar Hall in the new wing of the Palace where tea had been served in the evening, after the arrival of the party.

### **Music in the Drawing Room.**

This beautiful room which ere long was the Drawing room had been converted as if by magic into a fine Darbar room and the party soon made themselves comfortable in the luxurious sofas placed in front, to listen to the beautiful Indian music arranged by Mr. M. Fredilis, the Director of Amusements. Her Excellency was naturally too tired to attend this function, although she would have been most delighted but it was thought desirable in the interest of her health that she should retire and so she said "good night" to everybody and retired to her apartments.

### **History of Indian Music.**

Indian music is said to be about three thousand years old and is based on the most intricate musical system in the world. One tradition says that it was brought into the world by Brahma while another that in the Caucasian mountains, there lived a bird whose beak had several holes and through each of these, he could blow a different note producing harmonies suited to the season of the year. Indian music is made up of "surs" or tones and "talas" or times. The surs are personified and are given temperaments. There are many beautiful and artistic musical instruments and the Vina is supposed to be the King of all. The different tunes are divided into Ragas or male tunes some of which have "Raginis" or female tunes. The singer has to master several rules, for example, he should be soft and stirring and now hard; nor must he sing with closed teeth or his mouth wide open, while his hands made frantic gestures round about.

### **Importance of Music.**

Music formed an essential part of the liberal education of every



individual in the West but in the East, although the Indian ideal of music was of the highest, owing to certain circumstances, music has fallen into a kind of disrepute during the last few centuries. It is however hoped that the large amount of money spent by His Highness the Maharaja Sahab in the cause of music would bring about a better state of things. Music is an art which harmonises our emotions with the highest things in nature and it is a mistake to regard music as a thing which is derogatory to our feeling of respect or should be shunned or relegated to a particular class which was not held in high esteem. As the Poet has said,

" He that has no music is fit for stratagems and spoils,

Trust no such man. "

### **The Tanjore Dancers.**

But here in the Drawing room, Lord Reading was minutely surveying the Tanjore Dancers who were giving an exhibition of ancient Hindu dances, the like of which he had never seen before. These dancers hailed from the South and the dances were peculiar too and required a tremendous amount of energy of which the dancers in spite of their age seemed to have plenty. They seemed to make as much noise as possible, now beating the floor with their feet, now turning to the left, then to the right, now making a sudden forward movement as if they were going to fall on the spectators but then suddenly stopping their progress and now and again making wonderful gestures to suit their weird music and quaint dance, while the persons who stood behind them with darkish faces but wearing gold and red turbans seemed to have absolutely no mercy on the instruments they held. So wonderfully had they coloured, clothed and jewelled themselves that they became objects of admiration and their dances were loudly applauded. After showing several types of dances, Kanta and Ghoura as they are called gave imitations of the snake charmer and of kite flying and finished up by playing the Hindu mythological scene of Radha and Krishna, one playing the hero and the other the heroine. His Excellency had a huge smile as he evidently thought that a demonstration of this kind on an English stage might perhaps cause a sensation. Every one of the guests appreciated

these dances but Capt. Sadekar who was sitting by the window side was half asleep but it was no fault of his and he felt relieved when the "noise" ceased.

### **The Concert**

Mr. Fredilis, was now getting impatient and the second set of musicians presented themselves. They formed the so called Indian Orchestra, one holding the Indian clarionet while another played the so-called "Tabla" but what amused His Excellency most was the central figure of an old man with a flowing white beard who with folded hands and a smiling look now looked to the right and then to the left and always behaved as if he was praying. "What on earth is this man doing?" said His Excellency, to which His Highness replied "He is evidently happy." This little company played two Rags-Mand and Pilu, and they were good pieces, played well and were liked by all. Jamaluddin brought his Vina and gave some quiet pieces and showed wonderful dexterity of his fingers. Two Rags Kaphi and Bhairav followed and Iden Jan who wore shining gauze from head to foot could not get as much time as she wanted, though she gave a good song and as it was getting late, she had soon to make room for Ustad Khudratulla who brought his "Shata tantra" or the hundred stringed Vina and showed great skill as he played one or two sweet concluding tunes. As a matter of fact, the Indian Gavaiya or professional singer could have given one or two more songs but he has his peculiar idiosyncracies and wastes a lot of time to get into form and open his mouth. He is like the "Studdbaker" that would not start at one jerk and when he does start, he makes frantic oral and manual gestures, almost as if to say how impossible it is to try to bind eastern music with western fetters. So far as music at least is concerned it must be admitted that East is East and the West is West and the twain shall never meet.

It was now past twelve and if Fredilis had not received, from the Special Duty Officer, the quiet but definite ocular hint which he was trying to avoid, the musicians would have been glad to continue till the early hours of the morning but everybody was tired and more so His Excellency who deserved rest after the day's busy programme. The

concert was a marvellous success and from the huge smile on the faces of the host and the guest, it would seem as if they were perfect connoisseurs in the art of Indian music.

Lord Reading thanked Their Highnesses for their kind hospitality, and said good night, remarking that he had spent a most pleasant evening.

### **After Dinner**

It was warm in the Drawing room but the night outside was a

bit chilly, though pleasant and Their Highnesses accompanied by their daughter returned to the Laxmivilas and all the guests departed, and before long, His Excellency had changed and was enjoying a well earned rest, after the fatigues of the journey and the day's work.



**Mrs. Kealey**

Their Highnesses were delighted to see every one cheerful and smiling at the happy termination of this eventful day and the scene outside was splendid,

" As lamps burn silent with unconscious light,  
So modest ease in beauty shines more bright."

Shrimant Maharajkumars Dhairyashilrao and Pratapsinhrao with the other guests also left the Palace while the Viceregal staff returned to their apartments. Mrs. Kealy and Mrs. Wightwick felt happy at the satisfactory conclusion of this important day while the Resident officers felt no less delighted at the success of the several important functions.



**Major Wightwick**

The Royal host was happy also, as everything had passed off well but he had so many ideas revolving in his mind that he thought it was impossible to sleep and so at that late hour of the night, the simple figure of the Maharaja was moving to and fro in the long corridor of the Palace while the A. D. C. was quietly looking at the pictures of the

"Graphic" in the reading room, by the side. Questions like the future of the Science Institute, additional powers to the Panchavats or the Gujarat University were evidently revolving in his mind and alone he pondered and thought. "Never less alone than when alone". But it was getting late and there was silence every where, broken only by the chirping of the little "agans" kept in the cages below and now and then the foot-



**Mrs. Wightwick**

noise of the sentry when the A. D. C. informed His Highness of the late hour and His Highness said "good night" and went to bed. As Solomon has said,

**" Happy is the man that findeth wisdom,  
And the man that getteth understanding;  
For the merchandise of it is better than  
the merchandise of silver,  
And the gain thereof than fine gold."**



**Inspecting the Welsh Fusiliers at Makkarpura.**

## CHAPTER III.

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### Vidi

#### Climate of Baroda.

The climate of Baroda during the cold season which commences in November and lasts till February is dry and cool, the maximum temperature being 92° F. and the minimum 40° F. and it was a pleasant Friday morning of January when

“ The Sun does arise,  
And make happy the skies;  
The merry bells ring  
To welcome the spring;  
The skylark and thrush  
The birds of the bush  
Sing louder around  
To the bell's cheerful sound. ”

that the Viceroy of India, after a pleasant night's rest sat down and had his little breakfast quietly in his own private room. All the other officers had theirs in the big dining Hall on the ground floor and at about 8 in the morning, they had all assembled in the Drawing room of the new wing where

#### “ Chhabdi ”

was arranged for presentation to His Excellency the Viceroy. When an Indian visits a temple, he generally offers fruits and flowers and the

custom of offering presents of this kind to the chosen few, persons occupying exalted positions in life is peculiarly oriental. Chhabdi really means a basket but here were arranged all the fruits in forty big silver trays and they were fresh and dry fruits in abundance. Among other fruits, there were pine apples, custard apples, figs, papaws, oranges, limes, bananas and pomegranates while the 'Popnis' or the big orange and the melon predominated. The European fruits— apples, pears, plums and strawberries were also prominent by their presence. There were about twenty kinds of fresh fruits of different kinds and about ten of dry fruits.

### **Exhibition of Fruits.**

As Sir Norman observed, it was so to say, an exhibition of fruits. At 8-15 His Excellency the Viceroy who wore morning dress entered the Drawing room where, under instructions received from Government, Mr K. N. Panemanglor, the Special Duty Officer presented the "chhabdi" to His Excellency the Viceroy. "This is indeed nice" said His Excellency as he looked at this collection, "but what is that fat fellow?" and he picked up the 'popnis' which was as big as a football.

### **The "Chikoo."**

His Excellency carefully surveyed the contents of each tray and taking the little 'chikoo,' said he had never seen a fruit of this kind "Chikoo," "chikoo" said His Excellency "a very funny word, indeed" and ~~no doubt~~ it is a funny word, as being an Indian fruit, it has no English equivalent, unless one specially coins a new word. As this ugly fruit attracted much of the Viceroy's attention, one was readily placed before him on the spot, with the seeds and skin removed and His Excellency was surprised to find how sweet and delicious it was. It had evidently escaped the attention of Mortons and Black wells.

### **His Excellency's Bet**

A glance at the mangoes in another tray seemed to remind His Excellency of the bet he had with Lady Reading. It was not the mango season and he had evidently not hoped to see any, while Lady Reading had hoped to see the mangoes in spite of adverse natural conditions and

so readily she won the bet as beautiful mangoes had been specially obtained for the occasion. But His Highness the Maharaja Saheb was really responsible for the victory and so naturally he would be entitled to the half share in the bet, in the usual course.

### **The State Jewels.**

It was eight thirty and the Daimler with the little ' Union Jack ' flying on it was waiting at the Porch for His Excellency. Their Excellencies were to see the State Jewels in the Nazarbag Palace in the morning but Her Excellency preferred to have a quiet time and so the Viceroy alone accompanied by the Hon'ble Mr. Thompson, Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency, Col Worgan and the Resident left Makkarpura and drove to the Nazarbag Palace by the straight route, leaving the cavalry lines and the Goya gate Railway Station on the right. As usual, the road was lined by troops on both sides and the Police maintained order on the route. Thousands of people had flocked on both sides of the route to catch a glimpse of the Royal Guest and when the motor passed through Mandvi, the people heartily cheered His Excellency who profusely salaamed in acknowledgment.

### **Difference of Opinion.**

The people near the main Mandvi tower were however more lucky as a stray cow that happened to be on the left of the road evidently got confused with the result that the car had to be stopped and the difference of opinion between the Military and the Police stationed there as to whose legitimate duty it was to drive this innocent quadruped out of the way enabled hundreds to have a closer view of Lord Reading who was quietly enjoying the situation but the sacred animal being unmolested evidently took care of herself and disappeared but not without wagging her tail in joy to the dismay of the man on duty who happened to get a kick from her, in his belated enthusiasm to do what he thought was right.

### **Lucky Omen.**

It was a lucky omen indeed. The Hindus believe in omens, good and bad. A cow on the left of the road, a horse neighing on the right,

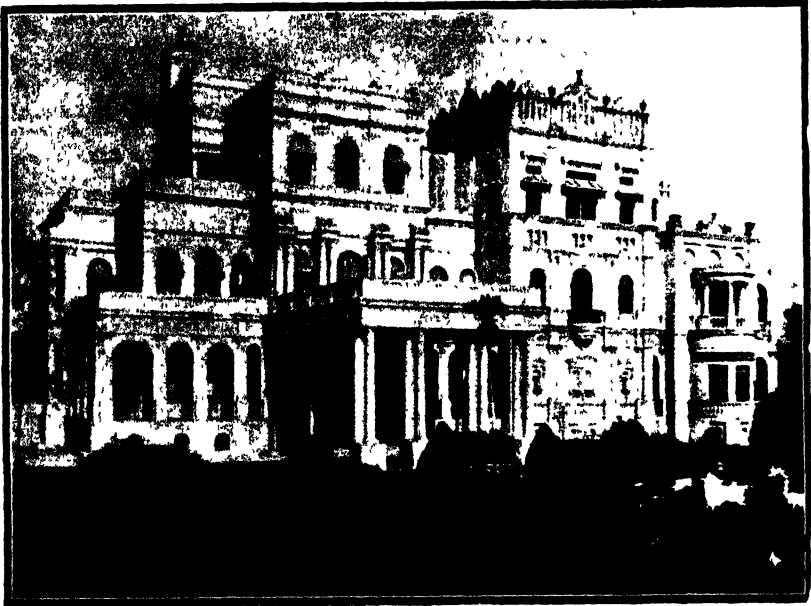


a gardener with flowers or a woman with two waterpots on her head are considered good signs, while one with three pots, a cat or cat-eyed man are supposed to be bad signs, and strange to say, while the " tonsor " is classed with the former, the " medicus " goes with the latter, though both are indispensable.

The Mandvi clock struck and it was eight thirty and in another minute. His Excellency alighted at the porch of the Nazarbag and was received by Sir Manubhai, the Dewan.

### **The Nazarbag**

Behind the old Palace, rising high above the surrounding buildings



**Nazarbag Palace**

stands this white stucco building called the Nazarbag Palace which was erected by Maharaja Malharrao but much enlarged and improved by

the present Ruler and the State jewels are kept there.

Sirdar More, president of the Javahirkhana gave a history of the several jewels that were displayed before His Excellency.

### **The Star of the South**

The chief diamond necklace worn by the Maharaja on State occasions is alone valued at 40 lacs, the biggest stone which is the Brazilian diamond known as the "Star of the South" being estimated at 9 lacs. It is a brilliant of the first waters weighing 125 carats and was discovered in 1853 in the Mines of Brazil, supposed to have been the property of Napoleon who wore it in his crest at one time and purchased by His Highness the Maharaja Khanderao for £ 80,000. It is said that when France was defeated in the Franco-German War, the crown jewels were sold by way of war indemnity and these were brought for sale at Calcutta and later on purchased by Maharaja Khanderao.

There is also a curious cloth embroidered with precious stones and seed pearls which was designed to cover the Prophet's tomb at Macca, ten feet by six, woven entirely of strings of pearls and is valued at thirty lacs but as the article was not finished during the time of Maharaja Khanderao who was a bit partial to Islam, it has remained with the other jewels. There are emerald and pearl necklaces one of the latter having seven stringed rows of big pearls. There are innumerable other smaller articles like bracelets, diamond anklets, ear-rings with pearls weighing about twenty chavs, nose rings, wristlets and watches set with diamonds over which His Excellency spent a considerable amount of time.

"It is wonderful," remarked the Viceroy, "how ladies both in the East and West would undergo any amount of pain to have the pleasure of wearing ornaments. Imagine the heavy nose and ear-rings. They will surely give an extra half inch to the nose and the ears ought to get longer and hang down" "Oh, I don't mind stealing one of these nose rings, in spite of that, if I can possibly get it!" remarked Sir Norman who had always a fund of good humour that amused everybody.

### **Victoria Drawn by Bullocks.**

While the Viceroy was inspecting the jewels at Nazarbag, a pretty little Victoria drawn by two bullocks was driving towards the Laxmivilas. In the days of motors and aeroplanes, a bullock carriage is out of fashion but the bullocks tread slowly and steadily and His Highness the Maharaja Saheb who has had his usual one hour's constitutional walk is now evidently enjoying the drive because he thinks that an hour's run



**The Maharaja's Morning Drive.**

in this slow coach gives more food to the brain than the same time spent in a car or an aeroplane where the speed would tend to divert one's attention. The lucky bullocks had done their duty for the day and His Highness who alighted went up to his study room but not without making detailed enquiries about the health of the distinguished guests and fully satisfied that everything was right.

### **The Jewellery of the Fair Sex.**

The Viceroy and party now left the jewels in their glory and walked out of the Palace, every one remarking on the general partiality of the fair sex to ornaments. The jewellery of the women is overwhelming. They are absolutely laden with ornaments. If they are wealthy, the ornaments are of gold, decked with precious stones, the poorer classes being weighed down with silver. In some cases, the lady carries on her person the wealth of the house, so that she may be regarded as the Family Bank. About the woman of the lower classes, her toes are decked with rings of silver made by an ingenious arrangement of small moveable knobs set close together, and on her eight fingers, she has perhaps twenty or thirty rings, literally—"Rings on her fingers and bells on her toes." On her left lower arm, there is a row of silver bracelets but with here and there a band of lacquer, green, red or yellow while on her left upper arm, she displays a circlet of links, carved into the shape of melons, each the size of a nutmeg, and on her neck is a chain of silver or copper of such length that after it had been coiled several times round her throat, there would remain sufficient to fall in a double loop upon her bosom. But what about the jewelled cigarette cases and several other fashionable toys that men carried in their pockets?

### **The Gold and Silver Guns.**

In the garden of the Nazarbag Palace were placed the gold and silver guns, the ambaris and the gold and silver carriages of which the two former created no small degree of interest. Two silver cannons were made under the orders of Maharaja Khande Rao in 1860 and his brother Maharaja Malhar Rao made a pair of gold guns in 1875. Sir Sayaji Rao however got one silver and one gold gun melted and has preserved a pair simply as an historical relic. The three pounder gold gun has a silver carriage and the three pounder silver gun a brass one. The big oxen of Kankrej of the type of those that draw His Highness' little Victoria also draw them and they are clothed in rich brocade while their horns are cased in gold. The gold gun with the horn covers, the silver limbers, the gold head stalls and standard, the trappings and

Other fittings are worth about two and a half lacs while the silver gun is worth five thousand. It is said that a salute of 21 guns was fired from the silver gun in honour of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh,



**Gold and Silver Guns.**

second son of Queen Victoria when His Highness Maharaja Khande Rao went to Bombay to meet him in 1870.

### **The Ambaris**

The gold and silver ambaris with all the fittings and ornaments of the elephants and the gold and silver carriages were also exhibited on the grounds. The gold ambari which is used on State occasions is worth about 2 lacs and it weighs about 16 maunds, a fair load for "Kisangaj." It was now nearly ten and His Excellency departed after saying how mightily pleased he was at all that he had seen and thanking Sir Manubhai and the President of the Javahirkhana for the trouble they had taken. Hundreds of the persons assembled at Mindvi, Leheripura, and the Chamrajendra Road or more popularly known as the Raj Mahal Road cheered His Excellency en route and Chandrarao looking to his watch

drove the car straight to Makkarpura by the Vishrambag road, the pilot car smartly turning to the right and disappearing as the Daimler got through the main entrance where the Guard presented arms.

**Reception of His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar by  
His Excellency the Viceroy.**

**Escorting His Highness.**

A Deputation consisting of Col. Worgan, the Military Secretary to the Viceroy, the Under Secretary in the Political Department and Capt. Lunham A. D. C. to the Viceroy started from Makkarpura Palace, the Vice-regal Residence at 10.30 for the purpose of escorting His Highness the Maharaja Saheb from the Laxmi Vilas. Major Wightwick had already gone a little ahead of the Deputation. The Deputation was received by Sir Manubhai who received them as they alighted at the main porch of the Darbar Hall at 10.42 while His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and the Resident met them in the adjoining Hathi Hall.



**Shrimant Sampatrao K. Gaekwad.**  
**BAR-AT-LAW.**

**The State Visit.**

At 10.48, His Highness accompanied by the Resident, Shrimant Maharaj Kumars Dhairyashil Rao and Pratapsingh Rao, Sir Manubhai Mehta, the Minister, Nobles and High Officials of the State proceeded to Makkarpura. The first car, Maharaja's Rolls contained His Highness, the Resident and an A. D. C. to His Highness. The second car

carried the members of the Deputation while the third also a Rolls carried the Maharaj Kumars with one officer. Sir Manubhai with two officers followed in the fourth while the Sardars and other officers also motored from behind.

The road from the Lodge Gate of the Makkaipura Palace grounds to the Palace was lined by a detachment of 1/8th Punjab Regiment and a Guard of Honour of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers with Band and Colours was drawn up in front of the Viceregal Residence, between the two fountains. The troops lining the grounds presented arms to His Highness the Maharaja Sahib as the car approached the Palace and when His Highness neared the porch, the British Guard of Honour presented arms while the State Artillery located outside fired a salute of 21 guns, on behalf of the British Government.

#### **Reception.**

On alighting from the car, His Highness was received by Capt.



**Shrimant Dewan Bahadur  
Ganpatrao S. Gaekwad BAR-AT-LAW.**

Gage Brown A. D. C. who with the members of the Deputation led him up the steps. The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson, Political Secretary, received His Highness at the top of the steps and conducted him to the Darbar Room on the ground floor of the new Palace where His Excellency the Viceroy received him within the room at a distance of one pace from the threshold and conducted him to a seat at his right hand, on the same sofa. On the right of His Highness sat the Resident and next to him the Maharaj Kumars, the Minister Sir Manubhai and others in attendance on His Highness, according to

their ranks. On the left of His Excellency the Viceroy sat the Political Secretary, the Private and Military Secretaries, the Officer Commanding at Baroda, the Under Secretary, His Excellency's Personal Staff, the Resident's staff, and the Military Staff.

The Darbar Hall with the innumerable wall paintings looked pretty while the Viceroy and the Maharaja both of whom wore all the decorations befitting the occasion and the officers all attired in ceremonial dress gave additional charm to the already beautiful Hall. The Band of the British Regiment played outside to relieve the ceremony of much of its official air.

After a short conversation, His Highness the Maharaja Sahib introduced to His Excellency both the Maharaj Kumars who rose and bowed from near their chairs.

#### **The Nazarana.**

The Resident then introduced the Minister Sir Manubhai Nand-

shanker, Shrimant Sampatrao Gaekwad, Shrimant Anandrao Raje Pandhre, Nawab Mir Nuruddin Husseinkhan, Shrimant Dewan Bahadur Ganpatrao Gaikwad, Rao Bahadur Govindbhai H. Desai, Rao Bahadur G. B. Ambegaoker, Mr. A. N. Datar, Mr. G. K. Dandekar, Major R. S. Parab, the Khangi Karbhari, Mr. Randive, the Manager Political Office and Capt. Makbul Hassan A. D. C. each of whom approached His Excellency, bowed and offered a Nazar of five gold mohurs each which was touched by His Excellency and remitted.



**Rao Bahadur Govindbhai H. Desai.**

B. A., L L B., F. R A I.



## **Pansupari.**

**At the close of the interview, His Excellency the Viceroy garlanded**



**His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and gave him Bouquet, Lavendar, Attar and Pan. His Excellency also garlanded both the Maharaj Kumars and gave them Bouquet and Pansupari, the Maharaj Kumars approaching His Excellency to receive them. The Political Secretary then garlanded Sir Manubhai Mehta and three principal nobles and officers and gave them Bouquets, Lavendar, Attar and Pan while the Under Secretary gave garlands and Pansupari to the others.**

**Rao Bahadur Ganesh Balvant  
Ambegaokar. B. A., I. L., B.**

**After this, His Highness rose to depart and took leave of His Excellency**

**within the Darbar Room and the Political Secretary accompanied him up to the top of the steps. The party left in the same manner as they had come, the British Guard of Honour and the troops lining the grounds—presenting arms to His Highness, while a salute of 21 guns was fired by the State Artillery to announce the departure. At the close of the visit, in accordance with the wishes of His Highness the Maharaja Saheb, the members of the Deputation and the Resident were excused from returning to the Palace.**

**Return Visit of Her Excellency Lady Reading  
to Her Highness the Maharani Saheb.**

**Lady Reading's Visit**

At 12 noon, Her Excellency Lady Reading accompanied by Mrs. Kealy and an A.D.C. motored in the Benz car to the Laxmi Vilas Palace to return the visit of Her Highness the Maharani Saheb. On alighting from the car at the Zenana Porch, Her Excellency was received by Capt. Gupte A. D. C. to Her Highness and was carried up stairs in the chair specially kept for her use and Her Highness the Maharani Saheb received her within her beautiful Drawing Room near the threshold. Her Highness' Drawing Room is the prettiest in the Palace, decorated in French style with costly works of art and ivory and marble pieces of rare design are tastefully scattered about. There are costly and beautiful paintings on the wall, while on the entrance, there is a pretty marble statue of the Maharani Saheb.

After a few minutes' conversation, Her Excellency accompanied by Her Highness proceeded to the Northern balcony of the Darbar Hall to view the grand Darbar held in honour of His Excellency the Viceroy.

**Return Visit of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General  
to His Highness the Maharaja Saheb of Baroda.**

**The Baroda Military.**

The Baroda Military in full dress is a grand sight and the ceremonial parades on important occasions would do credit to any British Regiment. General Hesketh had only lately joined the Baroda Army but it was Col. N. G. Shinde who was acting as General Officer Commanding the Baroda State Troops and exercising the powers of the Senapati that deserves the credit for the efficient way in which the troops are maintained.

Baroda has three Cavalry Regiments, four Infantry Regiments, His Highness' Guards and a Light Field Battery, while Okhamandal

has a separate Battalion of its own. The actual strength is four thousand and is maintained at a cost of fifteen and a half lacs while the irregular force consisting of two thousand costs the Government three and a half lacs.



**Col N. G. Shinde.**

#### **Ceremonial Arrangements.**

It was now 12 noon and a Guard of Honour of the State Troops with Band and Colours were drawn up in the open ground along the Eastern wing of the Palace, facing the Navlakhi well to the North while the State Artillery was located in the Maidan opposite the Palace. The road from Vishrambag to the Laxmi Vilas Porch was lined on both sides by

men from the State Regiments of Cavalry.

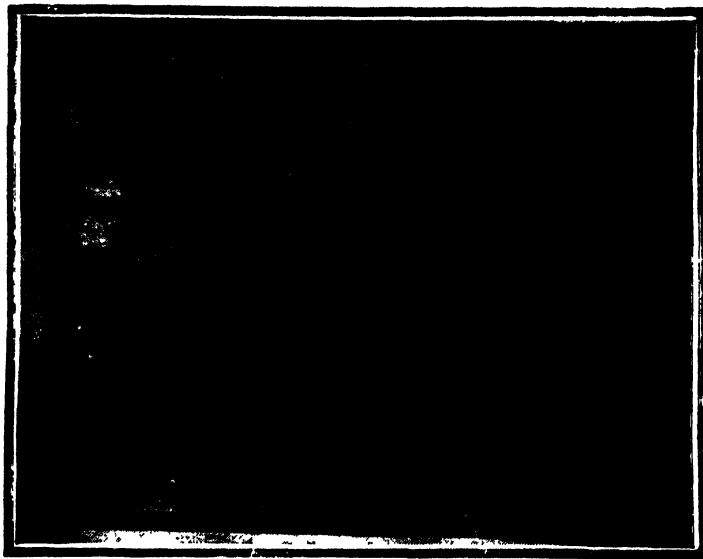
#### **The Darbar Hall,**

The grand Darbar Hall which faces due north is 93 by 54 with corridors on both sides, an entrance Hall and a reception room on the west and an open court to the south. There is a beautiful inner garden attached to it with fountains and statues that add to the grandeur. It is provided with richly carved wooden balconies on the first floor from where the ladies can have a good view of the functions that take place below. The spandrills of the arches in the Darbar Hall are in glass mosaic work, pictures of Indian Mythology being painted on them while the floor also is in marble mosaic, the glass and mosaic work being executed by Indian artists. The ceiling is of coloured enamelled work in iron sheets. The Darbar Hall is a sort of " Kirti Mandir " where

there are little busts of the past Rulers of the State and devoted members of their families and the illustrious ministers, while His Highness' portrait painted on glass occupies the central position.

#### **Escorting the Viceroy.**

At 11 55 a Deputation consisting of Shrimant Ramchandrarao Fadnis, Mr. Ramlal H. Desai, Mr. V. R. Talvalker and Mr. Manilal D. Nanavati waited on His Excellency the Viceroy at the Makkarpura Palace, to conduct His Excellency to the Laxmi Vilas. They were received by Capt. Lunham A. D. C and conducted to the verandah where they waited for His Excellency and their arrival was duly announced.



**Darbar Hall of the Laxmi Vilas.**

#### **Arrival of the Officers.**

The Political Secretary, the Resident, the Private and Military Secretaries to the Viceroy, the Surgeon, the Under Secretary and the Officer Commanding at Baroda with his staff and the Resident's staff all arrived at the Laxmi Vilas some time before the arrival of His Excellency

and took up their positions on the flight of the steps of the Darbar Hall in two lines, to receive His Excellency on arrival.

The Viceroy accompanied by two A.D.Cs. left Makkarpura at 12.3 under a Royal salute of 31 guns fired by the State Artillery and proceeded to the Laxmi Vilas, the members of the Deputation following in a separate car. As His Excellency passed, the troops lining the streets presented arms.

It was an animated scene outside the Palace gate where the people had assembled to have a look at the distinguished guests and close by was located the artillery.

As soon as His Excellency's car arrived at the Porch of the Darbar Hall, the Guard of Honour presented arms and a Royal salute of 31 guns was fired by the State Artillery.

### **The Grand Darbar.**

His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and the Resident received His Excellency the Viceroy as he alighted from his car and conducted him to the Darbar Hall to a seat at His Highness' right hand on the silver sofa on the Dais. The Political Secretary, the Private and Military Secretaries to the Viceroy, the Officer Commanding at Baroda, the Under Secretary, His Excellency's personal staff, the Resident's staff and the Military staff followed His Excellency in rows of two and after bowing to him, two at a time, took their seats to His Excellency's right in the above order below the Dais.

On the left of His Highness below the Dais sat the Resident, and beyond him Shrimant Maharajkumars Dhairyashil Rao and Pratapsingh Rao, and after them the Minister Sir Manubhai, the Nobles and Officers of the State, according to their respective precedence.

It was a magnificent sight, indeed with the fountains playing on the left, while His Highness' Guards in their beautiful uniforms lined the steps of the Darbar Hall and were also posted at each entrance inside the Hall. The walls of the Darbar Hall were decorated by double loops of Asopala garlands while the balconies were decorated by garlands of

flowers and sandal wood leaves. The interior of the hall was magnificently decorated with rich Gobelin tapestries and scarlet velvet bordered with ermine. Golden bamboos were fixed in the four corners which were made lively by palms and crotons of every kind. The Morchal bearers stood behind the silver sofa with the morchals and chavris, emblems of royalty, the Naik and Chobdar standing on either side at the entrances.

Her Excellency Lady Reading and Her Highness the Maharani Sahab as well as His Highness' guests who had specially come to Baroda to witness the celebrations watched the proceedings from the balcony.

His Highness then introduced the Maharajkumars who rose and bowed to His Excellency from near their chairs.

#### **The Nazarana at the Grand Darbar.**

At the desire of His Excellency the Viceroy, the Resident then presented to him Sir Manubhai, the Minister, Shrimant Sampatrao Gaikwad, General W. Hesketh, Shrimant Anandrao Raje Pandhre, Nawab Mir Nuruddin Husseinkhan, Shrimant Narsingrao Ghorpade, Shrimant Dewan Bahadur Ganpatrao Gaikwad, Rao Bahadur Govindbhai H. Desai, Rao Bahadur G. B. Ambegaoker, Mr. A. N. Datar, Mr G. K. Dandekar, Mr. V. K. Dhurandhar, Judge, Mr. A. A. Kehimkar, Judge, Mr. N. K. Aloni, Accountant General, Mr. A. T. Houldcroft, Mr. Ramlal H. Desai, Rao Bahadur B. A. Ghadge, Mr. N. K. Dixit, Dr. R. B. Chandrachud and Mr. V. R. Talvalker, all of whom approached His Excellency, bowed and offered a Nazar of five gold Mohurs each which His Excellency touched and remitted.

#### **Pansupari.**

His Highness the Maharaja Sahab then gave a gold embroidered garland to His Excellency the Viceroy and presented him with a Bouquet, Rose water, Attar and Pan. His Highness also garlanded the Resident and the Political Secretary and gave them Pansupari. Sir Manubhai Mehta then gave garlands and Pansupari to the other British officers.

After this ceremony, His Excellency rose to depart and His High-

ness the Maharaja Saheb accompanied by the Resident saw His Excellency off in the porch at the place where he had received him. As the motor left, the Guard of Honour presented arms and a Royal salute of 31 guns was fired by the State Artillery.

As the Darbar was over, Her Excellency Lady Reading also took leave of Her Highness and left with Mrs. Kealy while the members of the Viceregal staff also followed in separate motor cars. In accordance with the usual practice, the Political Secretary had ascertained the wishes of the Viceroy and the Deputation was excused from returning to Makkarpura.

### **Lunch at Makkarpura.**

It was now one twenty when His Excellency the Viceroy with the members of his staff reached Makkarpura Palace and the party soon sat to lunch in the Dining Hall of the old wing. His Highness the



**Capt. H. H. Raje Bahadur Shrimant Khem Savant Bhosle Sardesai of Savantwadi**

Sardesai Saheb of Savantwadi was invited to lunch, while the other guests included Mrs. Kealy, Major and Mrs. Wightwick, Mr. Trotman Dickenson and Mr. Panemanglor Shrimant Raje Bahadur Savant alias Bapusaheb Bhosle Sardesai Saheb was born in 1897 and went to Cambridge at the age of 15 to receive higher education, and became very popular on account of his liking for games and his fine qualities. As he was anxious to serve in the war, he was appointed Hon. Second Lieutenant in the 116th Infantry and served with the Regiment in Mesopotamia. Lord Willingdon complimented His Highness on his great abilities and his gallantry. After his return

from Mesopotamia, the title of " H. H. " was conferred on him and he has been given a salute of 11 guns and a permanent seat in the Narendra Mandal. He has married a grand daughter of His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar, sister of Maharajkumar Pratapsinh Rao and is noted for his high sense of discipline and his charming manners,

### **Conversation during lunch.**

It was a lively conversation, indeed, at lunch, for while Sir Geoffry spoke about elephants, His Excellency was expressing admiration at the jewels that he had seen at Nazarbag. " Fancy the nose rings and the ear rings " said the Viceroy, " How heavy the pearls would be and yet the ladies would gladly wear them ! " The noses would not get longer but the ears would, if such heavy weights are left to hang on them but this sort of custom as is well known, prevails more in Southern India. There, the fondness of the women for silver jewellery seems to be greater than elsewhere. Not only are they lodged with the usual rings, bracelets, armlets and anklets but they pierce the nose in three places to adorn it with trinkets. In each nostril, a sort of brooch is fastened and the centre of the nose is pierced to insert a large ring which hangs down over the mouth. A large hole is opened in the lobe of the ear to hold a ring as big as a bracelet and in some cases, you may see a woman the lobes of whose ears have been stretched and pulled out in such a manner that she can thrust her own hand and wrist through the openings. This was wonderful indeed and His Excellency laughed heartily at this rare partiality of the fair sex to ornaments.

Turning to the Indian music of the previous night, His Excellency said it was wonderful indeed but why the old man was smiling was still a mystery to him and so it was ' It is rather funny " remarked His Excellency, " that the best professional Indian musicians should be Mahomedans and so is the Bhisti and the Butcher. " But there was no special reason to attribute to this pure accident. The noise made about the music before mosques was also inexplicable but fortunately every thing went well in the State, under the benign care of His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and it was not worth while to ascertain the causes. For what is the cause why a horse shies or stumbles or why is the rider shaken but not unsated ? The reader may think.



It was now two and fruit salad, Sorbat d' Oranges Fromage and Cafe were served when His Excellency said that he was glad that he was going to see a real elephant fight in the evening, for he remembered to have seen once in England a Cinema film of an elephant fight in Gwalior. But it was not a film of the Gwalior elephant fight ; it was that of Baroda and he was going to see the huge beasts actually at war in the evening.

It was two forty when the lunch was over and His Excellency said good bye to His Highness the Raje Saheb of Savantvadi, telling him how delighted he was to have had the pleasure of meeting him that afternoon.

### **The Creche.**

Her Excellency on the other hand was having a quiet time for she needed rest. She had intended paying a visit in the morning to the Creche Orphanage and the Hospital of which she had heard so much and all arrangements were made but owing to the delicate nature of her health, she was reluctantly compelled to deprive herself of the pleasure of visiting these institutions.

To save the infants who were rendered parentless by the heavy toll of life taken by the Influenza epidemic, His Highness the Maharaja Saheb has sanctioned the permanent maintenance of the Creche Orphanage which was temporarily organised by the Education Department. The amount of money spent by His Highness on this and other nursing and medical institutions bears testimony to the solicitude of His Highness towards the well being of his subjects in the State, but he is not partial, as can be seen from the several liberal donations which he has now and then made for institutions of this kind outside his own province.

### **Training of Nurses.**

A School for the training of Nurses both male and female has been opened at the Hospital as also a class for the training of mid-wives. The success of this institution is due to the willing, selfless work of Mrs. Sulochana Desai a sister of Sir Manubhai who has devoted all her life to the cause of helping the helpless and ameliorating the pitiable condition

of the poor women. She is the first lady to have received distinction from His Highness the Maharaja Saheb in a State Darbar, for the great services that she has been rendering to the people, and it is highly creditable to see that ladies from high families come forward to render such kind of assistance. Half the amount of the fines inflicted for Infant marriages is earmarked for the training of nurses from the higher and middle classes of Hindu Society and the hostel maintained at the capital



**Mrs. Sulochana Desai**

from out of this fund has become very popular under the kind care of Mrs. Sulochana who has been able to combine persons of different temperaments and castes into one harmony. Her frequent tours in the different talukas of the State as well as outside are undertaken with the object of giving lectures on social subjects that would readily appeal even to the most orthodox ladies and on account of the power of persuasion and her spirit of sympathy with the condition of the several that suffer more owing to their ignorance, the mission of awakening the women folk to the needs of sanitation and the like and of impressing on them the duty of self help and thereby

of being useful to others is generally successful.

In this connection, the Nurses' Act which is a new and original piece of legislation is worthy of mention. It is a well known fact that there is a large mortality and sickness among women and infants that can be prevented—sickness affecting the vitality of the people, owing to the deplorable conditions of child-birth. By the spread of education, the appointment of trained mid-wives, the institution of Victoria Memorial Classes for nurses and its support by the Sanitary Association, His

Highness' Government has been endeavouring to combat deep rooted ignorance and prejudice.

### **The Hospital.**

The State General Hospital completed in 1917 at a cost of five lacs and opened by His Excellency Lord Willingdon is daily becoming more and more popular and at present hundreds of patients from and out of Baroda resort to this place for medical advice. There are two main wards with an accommodation of 104 beds and the Chief Medical Officer Dr. Chandrachud has already earned a name as one of the best surgeons of India. The Countess of Dufferin Hospital which provides accommodation for 56 beds is now being reconstructed and refitted in order to serve as an up-to-date women's hospital. The State General Hospital is fitted with all the latest X-Ray and other scientific fittings and today it may be styled one of the best equipped hospitals in India or Europe, thanks to the energy of Drs.



**Dr. R. B. Chandrachud**

M. B., F. R. C. S.

C. A. L. Mayer, Col. McPherson and Jivraj Mehta, all Doctors of Medicine of the London University who hap-

pened to administer its affairs while His Highness the Maharaja Sahib by his liberal grants to this most useful institution for the benefit of humanity has succeeded in making the Hospital one of the best in India. Both Dr. Chandrachud and Sister Davison anxiously expected a visit from Her Excellency Lady Reading in the morning but being in the medical line, though it was a matter of disappointment, they were the fittest persons to appreciate the need of rest which Lady Reading wanted so badly.

It may be mentioned here that Her Excellency Lady Chelmsford at the end of 1919 held a large Maternity and Child Welfare Exhibi-

tion at Delhi and it was proposed to start in Baroda a branch of the Child Welfare League inaugurated by Lady Chelmsford and the Health Museum arranged in the town is calculated to keep alive public interest in problems of sanitation. His Highness the Maharaja Saheb was pleased to contribute a generous endowment of Rs. 50,000 to the Lady Chelmsford League.

His Highness the Maharaja Saheb had also given a benevolent donation of ten lacs for the Ayurvedic Pathshala, and maintenance of village dispensaries and eight lacs still available were allotted to the Central Leagues, as no other worthier object could be thought of for the benevolent endowment. The Maharani Chimnabai Maternity and Child Welfare League is doing practical work, by creating public opinion with regard to the care and welfare of the infant life, and by diffusing knowledge of sanitation and hygiene by giving popular lectures on the subject.

It will thus be seen that the people are provided with every kind of medical relief and the large amount of money spent on hospitals and equipping them with able and competent doctors testifies His Highness' warm solicitude for the welfare of his subjects. The annual expenditure on the Medical Department is roughly six and a half lacs. Her Excellency Lady Reading takes warm interest in these institutions and if it were not for her health, would have gladly spent an hour or two in the morning, visiting these several useful places but she was immensely delighted to learn of the excellent facilities afforded to the people by His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and to know of the keen interest taken by His Highness and Her Highness the Maharani Saheb in the cause of the poor.

### **The Maharani Saheb's Tea**

There were too many engagements for the day and His Excellency the Viceroy could not therefore have a quiet hour's repose in the afternoon. He had a cursory glance at the Baroda Administration Report that was lying on the table and turned over a few pages of the "Gazetteer of the State," the able work of Rao Bahadur Govindbhai H. Desai and was soon absorbed in reading the several "dailies" placed in the room. His Excellency was not a little amused to read an account

of his own visit to Baroda in the "Times" as a vivid account of it had already appeared in the paper, but Smith, the valet wanted His Excellency in the Dressing Room and the papers were set aside. "Oh, yes, we are going to have tea with the Maharani Saheb, aren't we?" said Lord Reading, as he left the room.

The Viceroy's car was ready at the Porch and at 3.50 P. M., His Excellency accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Reading was slowly descending the steps of the Palace. The latter had dispensed with the carrying chair specially kept for her use and preferred to walk. In another minute, Their Excellencies left Makkarpura and were driving towards the Laxmi Vilas.

As the car approached the level crossing, His Excellency could not but notice the fine white stone building on the right, in the triangular spot between the two Makkarpura roads and on the South of the Dabhoi Railway line. This is the Prince's Palace, known as Lal Bag Palace and is the residence of Shrimant Maharaj Kumar Pratap Singhrao. It is a beautiful building, designed by Mr. Stevens and is in renaissance architecture, and was completed in 1918 at a cost of about ten lacs.

The crowd of anxious spectators that had assembled outside the Laxmi Vilas Gate cheered Their Excellencies, as the car entered the Palace gardens and the Guard presented arms. His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and Sir Manubhai Mehta received Their Excellencies at the South Western Porch of the Laxmi Vilas Palace and His Highness conducted them up the stairs to the Drawing room of Her Highness where the Maharani Saheb received the distinguished guests at the entrance of the room.

The Maharani Saheb's Drawing room is the prettiest room in the Palace. It is most tastefully decorated, in the French style and there are wooden panels on the walls with nice, silk, red tapestries. The Farber plaster ceiling contains paintings of a rare kind, while the carpet is of a white, cream colour with the rich furniture in perfect conformity with the carpet and the ceiling and it was in this very Drawing room, the prettiest in the Palace, that the stately picture of prettiness, Her Highness the Maharani Chimnabai Saheb had received His Royal



**Drawing Room of Her Highness the Maharani Saheb.**

**Highness The Prince of Wales in 1921, when he paid a visit to His**



**His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales**

**Highness the Maharaja Sahab, in his Indian tour. His Royal Highness was staying at the Laxmi Vilas and was having a game of tennis in the Motibag grounds at 3.30 in the noon. It was a very unusual time for tennis but the Prince did not wish to miss his usual exercise**

**"We are having the garden party in the evening, but I don't wish to miss my tennis, at any rate," said His Royal Highness to Mr. K N. Panemangloi, the officer who was deputed to look after his comforts, "could you kindly**

**arrange a game for us at this odd hour?" It was arranged and the Prince had three good sets, at the conclusion of which he was reminded of his appointment to call on Her Highness the Maharani Sahab at the Palace "Oh, only one set more," said His Royal Highness and he finished the fourth and left the grounds and walked to the Palace though a car was ready for him The Prince was in tennis flannels and there was no time to change immediately. "I am afraid I shall keep Her Highness the Maharani Sahab waiting Is it alright my seeing her, in this tennis costume?" remarked His Royal Highness. "Oh, I enjoyed my game immensely but I can't catch your name. I think I better call you 'Pani.'" The Palace was reached quickly, as His Royal Highness walked fast and there was neither the noise of the motor to announce**

the arrival nor could any messenger be sent in time. Though the lift was ready, the Prince walked up the stairs, doing two or even three steps at a time, reaching the Drawing room at the head of the staircase in lesser time than the lift would take and the party was taken by surprise. When the Prince was announced, His Highness the Maharaja Sahab who was quietly walking in the room came forward to receive His Royal Highness whom he then introduced to Her Highness the Maharani Sahab. The Prince sat by her side, expressing regret at his inability to change, after the game which he enjoyed so much and soon the conversation was as lively as ever.

Now, here in the same Drawing room, Their Excellencies were being entertained by Her Highness the Maharani Sahab. Shrimant Maharaj Kumar Dhairyashil Rao and Shrimant Maharaj Kumar Pratapsingh Rao also attended to the comforts of the guests while Her Highness the Maharani Indira Devi of Cooch Behar made things lively by her ready wit and conversation. Her Highness had first intended to have a very small party at tea but owing to her genial and hospitable nature, the invitation was extended to all the members of the Viceregal staff and so, The Hon'ble Sir J. P. Thompson, Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency, Col. R. B. Worgan, Sir Norman Walker all partook of the splendid hospitality of Her Highness. His Highness the Raje Sahab of Savantwadi was also present with his Rani Sahab. Sir Manubhai Mehta, Major and Mrs. Wightwick, Mrs. Kaly as well as all the three A. D. Cs. to the Viceroy were present nor were Miss Charnaud and sister Meikle forgotten. The party was soon joined by Shrimant Sitabaisahab of Indore and the daughters-in-law of His Highness, Shrimant Kamala Devi, Shrimant Shakuntala Raje and Shrimant Vimala Raje, who were all now introduced to Their Excellencies. The room was now practically full, what with the number of the party and the innumerable dishes kept on the several tables. It was a most brilliant gathering and Her Highness the Maharani Sahab felt happy.

### **The Morning Tea.**

Her Highness' tea of this particular evening was not like her tea of the morning which is always as simple as it can be. The Maharani



Saheb is an early riser but will not have her tea unless she has her bath and not until she has finished her usual morning "Pooja" where she would always spend an hour or two. The little grand children would now wait for her in the open verandah outside the Drawing room while the maids would bring the tea. The usual morning 'dailies' would be there and Her Highness' chair would be in the same spot where it was perhaps ten years ago and here after the Pooja, the Maharani Saheb,



' All Smiles '

'all smiles' would be seated with the simple china tea, partly reading the papers and partly conversing with the lucky few who may happen to see her, not forgetting to give lumps of sugar to the children. Just a few drops of milk and a lump or two of sugar get into either cup, for always two are brought, the second merely serving as a sort of supporter of the strainer. Tea is then poured which she sips slowly and in another quarter of an hour, the tray disappears.

The Maharaja Saheb however prefers coffee or cocoa in the morning with some fruits and a

couple of Reading's "Marie" which seems to be the most popular biscuit in the Palace. He takes this morning breakfast always in the dining room and as he cares neither for the flavour of tea nor for that of coffee, he is generally indifferent. Sometimes, he is seen stirring the sugar for a considerable time, with his eyes fixed on some particular object but he would not take a drop of the liquid while the object would have no interest for him, except for its physical existence and he would

then leave the table, without a word, and have his morning walk or ride. But it is only when he is most pensive that he talks least with the result that once upon a time when a " Mr. Ghoda " was wanted, a " ghoda " from the stables was sent for and as the Maharaja Saheb was not inclined to ride, the former was sent back, the A. D. C. actually not knowing of the existence on the face of the earth of a man of that name. His Highness however burst into a loud laugh and all was well that ended well.

### **The Evening Tea.**

The evening tea presented before the guests was of a different nature. There were Indian and English sweets in abundance, there was sweet " Jilbi " and hot " Samoosa, " in short the best work of the English confectioner as well as the Indian " kitchener " was exhibited before the guests. Tea was served in trays and the several articles repeatedly shown round.



**The Maharaja's Drawing Room.**

Tea was also served in His Highness' Drawing room where a few of the guests who preferred to combine freedom with tea soon made

themselves merry. This is the favourite Drawing room of His Highness where he receives guests on important occasions.

It was now five and the guests had all enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Capt. Maclean was in tears, not that he was crying but he had evidently gulped a fine looking "Samoosa" which was as hot as pepper and if he had not pounced upon a chocolate that was close at hand, the result might have been disastrous. He was glad when ices were served and though he had a good cup of hot tea, as he said, he preferred to "blow hot and cold" also. In another minute, the lighted cigarette was thrown away and the guests left the room, after thanking the Maharani Sahib for the beautiful tea she had given.

While Lord Reading was having tea and talking to his hosts, he was also carefully surveying the beautiful furniture of the Drawing Room and admiring how splendidly and tastefully it was decorated and so in accordance with his wishes, before leaving the Palace, Her Highness the Maharani Sahib conducted Their Excellencies to the other luxuriously fitted rooms of the Palace. The so-called "Gulabi" room also furnished and decorated in French style contained pretty ceiling paintings and embroidered silken wall panels of a light blue while the carpet was of camel hair. The Drawing Room with the gold mirror and hundreds of rich Indian "Sarees" and a countless number of richly embroidered shoes, the bathroom with the big silver vessels were all objects of great admiration and were highly appreciated. Lady Willingdon had even remarked once that even using a pair every day, it might get its second turn at the end of the year. The writing room of the Maharani Sahib containing gold writing materials is decorated in "Empire style." The plaster ceiling with decorations is divided into different panels with nice cornice and frescoes while the Mauve silk tapestry in the wall panels is studded with gold stars. The rich carpet is also mauve and the furniture is covered with green silk tapestry also studded with gold stars.

Their Excellencies were delighted at all that they had seen and accompanied by Their Highnesses, descended the beautiful marble staircase and proceeded towards the Darbar Hall where eager Vernon was anxious to immortalise the group.

There are occasions when people like valets or artists have to be obeyed even by Royalty, and persons become readily pliant and freely



"Septentriones."

obey. The photographer for instance would always say, "This side, please, don't look serious, steady, wouldn't you smile," and so forth but nobody calls him mad. "Thank you," said he, at last to the satisfaction

of everybody and he had literally " caught " them, happy faces, happy minds.

### **Arena Sports**

The Viceroy was looking forward to the great event of the evening, the elephant fight of which he had heard so much. It was already getting late, as the time for the sports held in their honour was fixed at 4-45 p. m., while the party left the Laxmi Vilas at 5-20. All the members of His Excellency's suite, the Resident and his staff, the European officers and ladies and gentlemen from the Camp and the principal Sardars and officers of the State were invited to this function. Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Reading and His Highness the Maharaja Saheb arrived at the arena at 5-30, where thousands of spectators had already assembled to view the sports. Arrangements were also made for the Welsh Fusiliers to witness the sports and at was a rare sight to see them all packed like sardines in the ' omnibus ' as they drove to the arena, as it was for them to see what they were going to see.

" Elahee Kher Umar Dowlatjada " said the Chobdar, as Their Excellencies and His Highness the Maharaja Saheb took their seats and the blowing of trumpets announced the beginning of the show, and the wrestling commenced.

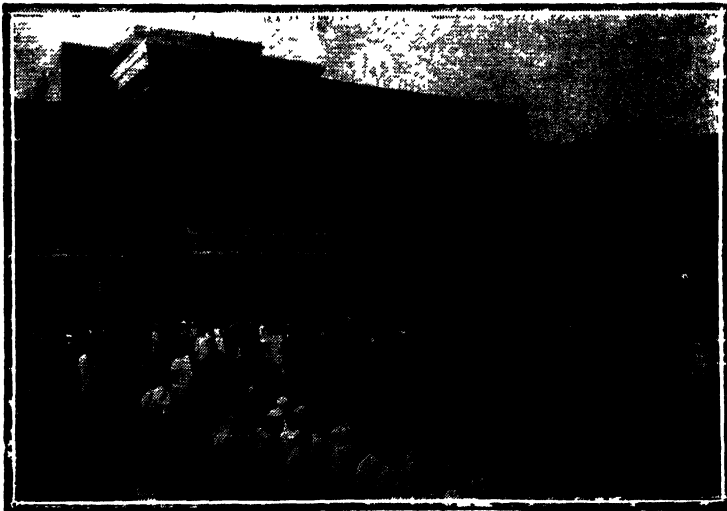
The arena or " agad " as it is called is near the Pani Gate and on the side of the Bhaddar which contains a Palace of the old Mahomedan Rulers of Baroda. The old structure has a marble bow-window of singular beauty and in the Palace at one time lived some of the former Gaekwars of Baroda. It is at the back of the Palace where the sports are held and the arena containing the men and animals with the spectators all around, some even on roofs of houses and on trees presents a grand and unique spectacle.

### **Wrestling**

The sports began with two kinds of wrestling, the " Vajramushti " and the " Panjabi. " To one who does not know anything about wrestling, it is a mere dull spectacle, but the tedium of the game was considerably relieved, as there were several pairs wrestling at the same time.

The appearance of the two "Vajramushti" pairs was something dramatic. With their heads clean shaven and their faces painted and holding steel fists in their hands, they danced as they entered, as if they were "Mohoram Tigers" and when they commenced to play, they appeared furious, as if they were going to kill each other.

The "Vajramushti" form of wrestling dates from time immemorial. When the giant Vajradant who used to harass the people is said to have been killed with a diamond "Mushti" or "Kachakada" by a "Mull" sent by Brahma Dev. This contrivance which is held in one hand has four points in the centre and two on each side and was formerly made of silver but is now made of bone. The wrsetlers have their wrists bandaged with threads and when they fight, they strike the face and head till one of them defends himself with his feet and arms and makes the other helpless who appeals for mercy. They would fight till the blood oozed out though this particular form is not encouraged in these days.



**Wrestling.**

After these two pairs had exhibited all their skill, the Panjabi wrestlers started theirs and there were fourteen pairs who strove hard.

Even if one was wholly ignorant of the rules of the game and was not quite certain who the victor was, the fat man who eats most mud as he lies on his face or the other fat fellow struggling on the back of the former, the sight afforded enough amusement, as the game was exciting and some of them bowed profusely as they won while others appealed to His Highness for mercy, as if some injustice had been done to them.

The peculiarity of the Panjabi form of wrestling consists in the fact, that the man who is made to gaze at the Heavens with his back on the ground is declared vanquished.

### **The Roman Shows.**

This naturally reminds one of the gladiators or professional combatants who fought to the death in Roman public shows. This form of spectacle which is almost peculiar to Rome was originally borrowed from Etruria and the slaves employed to carry off the dead bodies from the arena wore masks. These gladiatorial games are a survival of the practice of immolating slaves and prisoners on the tombs of illustrious chieftains, a practice recorded in Greek, Roman and Scandinavian legends. In later days, the original significance was forgotten and they formed an indispensable part of the public amusements as the theatre and the circus. Under the Roman Empire, the passion for the arena steadily increased but the Emperor Augustus limited the shows to two a year. A hundred pairs was considered the fashionable number for private entertainments while a successful gladiator enjoyed far greater fame than any modern prize-winner or athlete.

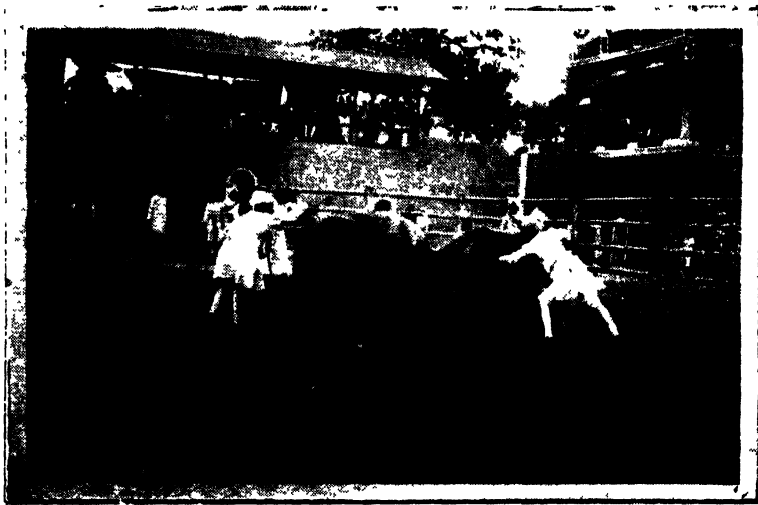
The signal for real fighting was given by the sound of the trumpet. When the gladiator was wounded, the spectators shouted. If he was at the mercy of the adversary, he lifted up his forefinger, to implore the clemency of the people. If the spectators were in favour of mercy, they waved their handkerchiefs, if not, they turned their thumbs downwards. The reward of victory consisted of branches of palm and sometimes of money.

The element of inhumanity must have been deeply ingrained in the old Roman National character to have allowed these cruel games to

become popular and to the horrors of the arena, we may attribute in part the brutal treatment of the slaves, though at the same time, we must remember that there were several of them who were in every other department of life irreproachable. Cicero thought that these games were the best discipline against the fear of death ; but the first Christian Emperor issued an edict abolishing these gladiatorial games.

### **Animal Fights.**

The element of cruelty is absent in the Baroda arena sports, and the animals are separated, of the least injury is noticed, for it is not unusual that the buffaloes or the rams in the heat of excitement injure themselves and very often bleed. Sometimes it is amusing to watch the pair being dragged apart by ropes tied to their hind legs ; when an



**Buffalo Fight**

attempt is made to separate them. And so, after the wrestling, came buffalo fighting and the thud of the impact between the two animals when the dividing sheet of white cloth was taken away was terrific. " Bichu " and " Chotachandra, " black fat brutes as they were held on



for some time and the fight became something in the nature of a prolonged manoeuvre for a better position, each animal straining against the other with magnificent strength, while the attendants filled the atmosphere with a deafening noise, each party coaxing his animal and for some time it appeared as if the buffaloes kept themselves absolutely "steady" to become the victims of the camera. So evenly balanced were they against each other, while the spectators were getting anxious but they had not long to wait, as the scales turned and "Chotachandra" bolted for his life to the great dismay of the crowd, most of them running after him. "Kala" and "Pawgadhia" now appeared from the other side of the arena and displayed more a "running away" exhibition than one of strength and it was interesting to see these fellows making towards the exits.

In the meantime, Pearl and Buby, the rams were breaking each other's heads, as if they were two cocoanuts being struck against each other with all imaginable force but unlike the cocoanuts, the heads did not break and their further progress was stopped and the small temporary enclosure was quickly laid bare, by removing the barriers posted temporarily to enable the elephants to reign supreme in the huge arena.

The entertainment given by the elephant "Rupkali" drawing water from a well and handing it round to her thirsty friends attracted the attention of everybody. She is so docile a pet that she will put a garland round the neck of the Mahout with uncommon grace and will walk so to speak, hand in hand with another elephant or holding the other's ear with her trunk would appear as if they were heraldic supporters of the coat of arms of His Highness the Gaekwar. Another held the fan and waved it to and fro and gave some demonstration of music, natural with the mouth wide open and supernatural, with the "harmoin" in the mouth while somersaulting on elephants formed the next interesting item.

The elephant fight that followed was less ferocious than the buffalo fight and seemingly no more cruel than some ordinary games. It had more the appearance than the actuality of ferocity but the attendants made a great show of being terribly afraid of their charges, as if something dreadful was going to happen. But perhaps they were right

as we have heard many stories of mad or furious elephants trampling on men and killing them and even flinging them high in the air but here, all necessary precautions are taken and nobody need have any fear for while the tame elephant has ornament of gold in the Gaekwar's stables, the bad tempered had spikey clamps for their legs very much like the cruel instruments of torture of the olden times and fireworks were kept ready to frighten them, if they got uncontrollable The clamps or "Chimtas" as they are called weigh about 15 seers each has about thirty to forty iron spikes and the moment this chimta is thrown on the foot of the elephant so as to catch it the animal however fierce he becomes totally helpless and collapses; while the "Ponchee" or the rope with six wooden rolls with thorns is tied round the feet.



### **Elephant Fight.**

It would have been interesting to watch an elephant fighting with a Rhinoceros but unfortunately, for an affair of this kind, we have to go back to the days of Baber. This huge dreadnought has retreated so rapidly before the advance of Western civilisation that it is almost extinct

in India. In his famous Memoirs, says the Emperor, " I have often wondered how an elephant and rhinoceros would behave, if brought face to face. On one occasion, the keepers brought the elephants and one of them fell in right with the rhinoceros but the latter would not come up but immediately bolted. " As it is not possible to see a show of this kind in the present days, it would be a fit subject for the modern film companies, if they wished to make money.

Both " Mangal Gaj " and " Albela " fought for some time, trunk to trunk, tusk to tusk and this particular moment was most exciting, as this is one of the rare sights which you do not see often. It was a terrific sight to see the two monsters with reised trunks swaying backwards and forwards and exerting their utmost.

If they had been in proper form or " mastti," the battle would



**Separating Elephants**

have been more exciting but evidently the special " masala " the formula of which is a great secret, known only to the Mahout was not properly

administered and peace was readily declared. The elephant "Ganga Prased" was then let loose in the arena to chase but not to catch the riders Narhari and Mohomad Khan. The huge beast ran with full speed from one end of the arena to the other and was subsequently teased or baited by a number of Mahouts who ran after the mad elephant, with long pieces of cloth of different colours, the elephant in some cases managing to catch these pieces and destroy them and before one could notice what had really happened, one of these Mahouts made a straight rush towards the place whence the Royal host and guests were witnessing the performance, crying "Babjee, Babjee, I am saved" and he fell flat on the earth and salaamed a hundred times. Evidently he thought he had a most narrow escape, poor fellow: But I don't believe it.

It is not easy to understand why the baiting of elephants has survived in Baroda—why there should be this relic of mediævalism still, in a State famed for its steady progress but evidently like all ancient customs, this manly sport has been rightly preserved.

The sports were over and after partaking of some light refreshments, the party dispersed. Their Excellencies were delighted at all they had seen and took leave of His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and in another minute, the Viceregal car passed through Mandvi towards Goya Gate while the Maharaja Saheb returned to the Laxmi Vilas. Goya Gate while less than five years ago was a series of cotton fields is today a large industrial city and is an important Station on His Highness' narrow Gauge Railway. The Railway workshop the foundation stone of which was laid by H. E. Lord Chelmsford are thoroughly equipped and employ about a thousand men. The largest Railway centre on this line is Dabhoi which has extensive commercial dealings all over India. It has a romantic history. Some ascribing its foundation to Sidhraj, King of Patan who built it on a spot where his son was born, others, to Dubhowey, the architect who is responsible for the fine architecture and elegant sculpture of the city. His Excellency could notice the sudden change of temperature and the sweet fragrance of flowers as the car entered the Makkarpura garden and the clock struck seven, as Their Excellencies alighted at the porch.

### **The State Banquet.**

The 'State banquet in honour of Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Reading was the most brilliant and most enjoyable function during the Viceregal Visit.

The beautiful Darbar Hall of the Laxmivilas was rendered still more beautiful by the thousand dazzling lights imparting radiance unparalleled in the history of Electric progress in Baroda and had now been transformed into the Banqueting hall for the occasion. It was lighted by electric lamps and coloured lamps on the balconies. The inner edge of the dining table was outlined by coloured incandescent lamps and covered over by silver gauze. On the tables, illuminated baskets made of crystal glass covered over by artificial glass grapes and flowers were artificially arranged

### **The Gold Fountain.**

An electric gold fountain was fitted in the middle of the banquetting hall between the tables and it was illuminated by high candle power coloured lamps displaying red, green and white at intervals and on either side of the gold fountain were two ice bergs made of large blocks of ice, and illuminated from beneath by means of electric lights and which changed colours and gave a very pleasing effect to the brilliant scene and the Viceroy's coat of arms painted on transparent glass embedded in the above ice blocks lent additional charm.

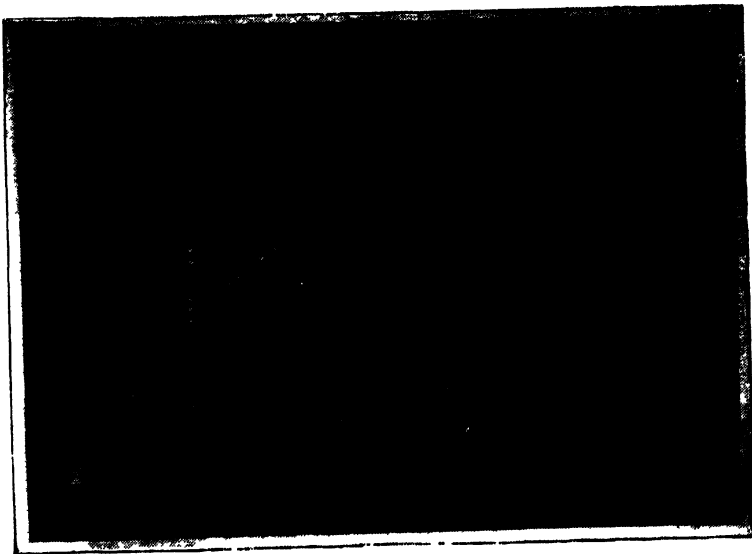
Crotons with beautiful coloured leaves were placed all round the inner side of the tables and groups of coloured foliage plants were placed in undulations, bordered by small rockery. Ferns were placed around the ice-bergs and to make the scene appear natural, temporary lawns were made around the gold fountain while His Highness' coat of arms was shown in flowers on the lawns which were bordered by rockery and ferns.

### **Illuminations.**

The whole Palace was illuminated and so were the gardens. There were illuminations in the city also and all the principal buildings were

tastefully illuminated. The triumphal arch near the Sayaji Tower was flood-lighted with high electric power and His Excellency the Viceroy's coat of arms painted on the arch was prominently illuminated. His Highness the Maharaja Saheb's statue outside the Public Park was also flood-lighted with high candle power lamps. The Mandvi Tower as well as the Leheripura Gate were all illuminated while rows of lights were placed on either side of the important roads. The central arch together with the clock tower of the Nyaya Mandir was illuminated with metal filament incandescent lamps of variegated colours set in ornamental reflectors, while the Sursagar opposite looked a splendid scene, with the thousands of lights placed all around which were all reflecting in the still waters of this big tank.

The Officers' Club and the Municipal Buildings were also tastefully illuminated while the main gate of the Laxmi Vilas was lit by



**Illumination at the Palace Gate.**

electricity, the central arch and the two towers on either side being

outlined by metal filament incandescent lamps of various colours set in ornamental reflectors and garlands. In the centre of the arch, the inscription "Hearty Greetings" constructed of crystal letters was placed while the top was overmounted by a star of coloured lights and garlands.

Glass light illumination was done in the Terrace garden and glasses were placed in different designs while coloured glass lanterns and Chinese lanterns were hung on trees around the Laxmi Vilas. In short, the illuminations were done on an unprecedented scale and thousands of spectators gazed on the scene with joy.

The State Police maintained order along the route from the Makkarpura Palace to the Laxmi Vilas, while the road from the Laxmi Vilas to the Leheripura Gate was lined on both sides by the State troops.

The members of His Excellency's party, the Resident and his Assistant, the Officers of the 1/8 Panjab Regiment stationed in the Baroda Camp and the leading European and Indian officers of the State with the ladies of their families were invited to this function. Covers were laid for 110 guests and the catering was entrusted to Framji & Co. of Simla who did all in their power to make the function a grand success.

At 8.15, Their Excellencies were ready and left the Makkarpura Palace once more in the car passing through Goya Gate, Mandvi—the heart of the city, Leheripura and Chamrajendra Road to the Laxmi Vilas, viewing the illuminations along the route. The crowd was already getting unmanageable and the Police had a hard job but the cheering throughout was most enthusiastic and both Their Excellencies acknowledged the warm salutations of the people. The Mandvi Tower was most beautifully illuminated and Their Excellencies very much appreciated the grand view outside the Leheripura Gate where the Nyaya Mandir and the Sursagar were literally a blaze of fire. Chandrarao drove the car slowly to enable Their Excellencies to have a full view of the city by night and it was 8.30 when the main Palace gate illuminated in different colours exhibited "Hearty Greetings" in crystal from the great and popular Ruler of Baroda.

#### **The Historical Red Room.**

Their Highnesses the Maharaja Saheb and the Maharani Saheb

were at this time waiting in the so-called Red Room of the Palace where ladies and gentlemen who were to sit at the high table had already assembled. This famous Red Room, so called from the colour of the room and its furniture is the most famous in the Palace and may be called the historical room of Baroda. It is in this that Viceroys and Governors have been received and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had also adorned it with his august presence and it is here that His Highness generally gives interviews and disposes of hundreds of matters and passes important orders. The officers pass by it slowly, as if they are in dread and no wonder then that the room has the colour of the danger signal which colour also represents Royalty.

### **Procession.**

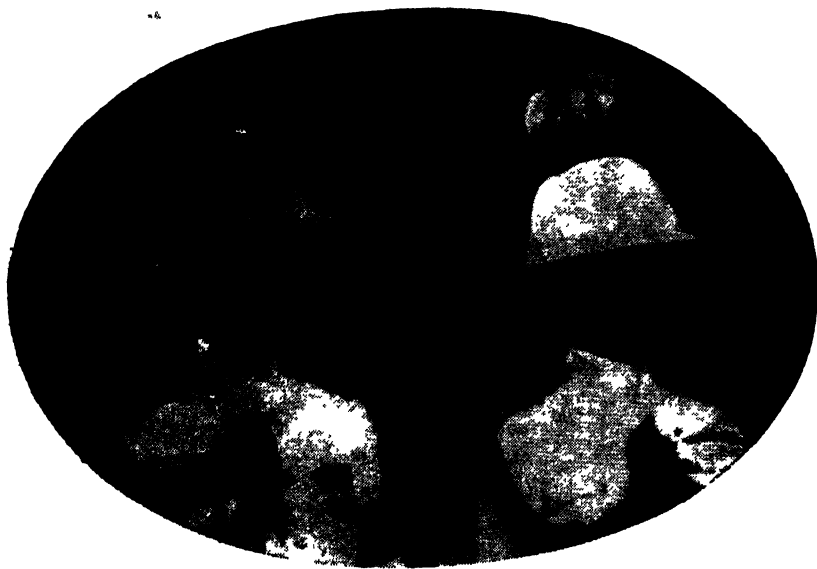
Their Excellencies alighted from the car at 8.35 in the porch opposite the marble staircase and were received by His Highness the Maharaja Sahib who conducted them to the Red room mentioned above. Her Excellency used the small push car of His Highness up to the door of the room where she was met by Her Highness the Maharani Sahib and her daughter, the Maharani Indira Devi of Cooch Behar. Shrimant Maharaj Kumars Dhairyashil Rao and Pratapsinh Rao were also present in the room with His Highness the Raja Sahib of Savantwadi and were discussing with the members of the Viceregal staff who had arrived previously on the sports of the evening.

The ladies and gentlemen who were to sit at the High Table were all standing in a circle and they were presented to Their Excellencies by the Resident.

The other guests had taken their respective seats at the table when Their Excellencies accompanied by Their Highnesses and other distinguished guests proceeded to the Banquet Hall in a procession led by His Highness' Aides-de-camp who wore long "Achkands" and blue "Saphas," followed by His Excellency the Viceroy's Aides-de-Camp who wore white mess dress. The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson, Major Wightwick, Sir Manubhai and the Viceregal party as well as the principal guests assembled in the Red Room followed in twos.



**"Their Excellencies" said the Viceroy's Aide-de-Camp, as he announced their arrival and all the guests stood and bowed, while the Band played the National anthem. The gold fountain was playing in all its glory and the scene in front of the distinguished hosts and guests was enchanting, as the ice-bergs changed colours.**



**A. D. C's. to H. E. the Viceroy.**

His Excellency the Viceroy wore all the decorations and the lovely blue of the Star of India contrasted pleasingly with Lady Reading's beautiful gown of silver with its clouds of purple shaded tulle and with the number of pearls and the little diamond stars, she looked charming. His Highness the Maharaja Saheb wore the purple coloured "Achkan" and all the decorations including the famous necklace of big emeralds and looked stately and majestic in the red "Pagdi," while the gentle and happy smile on his face and the little squint of his right eye made him appear handsome. While more charming still was the Maharani Saheb who wore a saree of yellowish tint with the gold

border smartly drawn over her head while the pretty star of the " Crown of India " hanging on the border and the tiny diamond pendants on her ears of which only one was visible rendered the natural grace prettier. These charming personalities revealed a glorious sight enough to inspire the fortunate few at the table with a high sense of dignity.

" And always does my heart with pleasure dance  
When I think on thy noble countenance,  
Where never yet was aught more earthly seen  
Than the pure freshness of thy laurels green. "

Both the Maharajkumars, handsome as they are, looked more handsome in the smart dresses they wore and the smarter " Saphas " tied each in his own peculiar style, which it was rather difficult to imitate. The Maharani Indira Devi wore a simple saree of light sky blue with a necklace of small pearls. Mrs. Kealy and Mrs. Wightwick also wore precious necklaces and looked charming while the beautiful Benares Sarees of Shrimant Sitabai Bhagwat and Lady Dhanvanta Mehta both showing their partiality for pearls only enhanced the charm.

There were also ladies of His Highness' family who were having a good look at the banquet from the lattices and trellised windows of the gallery and were able to see more of the show than the actual participants. There were gentlemen who wore " Angarkas " long shirted tunics of white muslin with close fitting white trousers called " Survar, " and others who wore each his own national dress. There were not less than twenty different kinds of head—dresses—" Pagrees," " Safas, " "Topees" and what not, each representing the particular nationality while the ladies vied with each other in their gorgeous costumes and fine jewellery. It might be said as if

" For never had that glory been  
So royally displayed,  
Nor ever such a gorgeous scene  
Had eye of man surveyed. "

# PLAN OF BANQUET TABLE

*Dated 22nd January 1926.*

Shri. Sitabai Sahab Bhagvat of Indore.  
The Resident.  
Her Highness Maharani Sahab of Cooch  
Behar.  
The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson.  
Her Highness Maharani Sahab.  
His Excellency the Viceroy.  
His Highness the Maharaja Sahab.  
Her Excellency Countess of Reading.  
Mrs. Kealy.  
His Highness the Sardesai Sahab of  
Savantwadi.  
Lady Dhanvanta Mehta.  
Shri. Maharajkumar Dhairyaashil Rao.

Sir. Geoffrey de Montmorency  
Mrs. Hesketh  
Col. Worgan  
Mrs. Scruby  
Col. Hesketh  
Mrs. Sheppard  
Col. Norman Walker  
Mrs. Randle  
Shri. D. B. Ganpatrao Gaekwad  
Mrs. Burrow  
Capt. Maclean A. D. C.  
Mrs. Campbell  
Shri. Lalsinh Rao  
Mrs. Lay  
R. B. Govindbhai Desai  
Mrs. Galvin

## TABLE.

Mrs. Egerton.  
Shrimant M. K. Pratapsinh Rao.  
Mrs. Wightwick  
Sir Manubhai Mehta  
Miss Charnaud  
Shri. Sampatrao Gaekwad  
Sister Meikle  
Lt. Colonel Egerton  
Mrs. Datar  
Capt. Lunham A. D. C.  
Mrs. Pegg.  
Capt. Gage Brown A. D. C.  
Mrs. Booty  
Major Scruby  
Mrs. Lalor  
Major Meade

Rao Bahadur Ambegaoker  
Mrs. Clarke

Capt. Bremner  
Mrs. Mukerjee

Mr. Datar  
Miss Davison

Capt. Campbell  
Mrs. Raiji

Sardar Ghorpade

Col. Savant.

Capt. Pegg

Mr. Kehimkar.

Mr. Aloni

Mr. Randle.

Capt. Lalor

Major Nawab Khusru Jang.

Mr. Houldcroft

Capt. Greenwood

Mr. Misra

Inspector Douglas

Mr. Meade

Principal Burrow

Mr. Manilal

Mr. Ratanji

Mr. English

Col. Shivraj Singh.

Mr. Sergeant

Major B. V. Gaekwad A. D. C.

Mr. Ranadive

Capt. Macbul Hassan A. D. C

Dr. Modak

Mr. F. N. Bose

Mr. Baganna Balaji.

**TABLE.**

Miss Needham  
Capt. Wodehouse

Mrs. Chard  
Sardar Bomanji

Miss. Lux  
Mr. Sheppard

Mrs. Hobart  
Col. Shinde

Mr. Dhurandhar

Capt. Booty

Rao Bahadur Trivedi.

Capt. Galvin

Rao Bahadur Ghadge

Dr. Chandrachud

Capt. Greffield

Mr. Mukerjee

Mr. Bagdatopulos

Major Parab

Mr. N. M. Dumasia

Mr. Satghare

Dr. Jadhav

Prof. Widgery

Mr. Doran.

Mr. Talvalkar

Mr. Chard.

A. D. C , Cooch Behar.

Mr. B. V. Desai.

Major Sadekar Powar

Shri. Bhadrasinh Rao Gaekwad,

Capt. Panemanglor

Capt. Vishwasrao Powar, A. D. C.

Mr. T. R. Kothawala.

Lt. V. B. Gupte A. D. C.

**Entrance.**

The State Band played an excellent programme of music which was much appreciated.



### Programme

- 1 March....." Admirals All "..... Bath.
- 2 Overture....." The Hebrides "..... Mendelssohn.
- 3 Selection....." Haddon Hall "..... Sullivan.
- 4 Cornet Solo....." Adieu "..... Schubert.
- 5 Barcarolle....." Una "..... Rubeno.
- 6 Suite....." Three Irish Dances "..... Ansell.
- 7 Valse....." Wood Nympls "..... Coates.
- 8 Selection....." Rose Marie "..... Femil,
- 9 Medley ..... " Martial Moments "..... Arr. Winter.
- 10 Fox-Trot..... " Sahara "..... Nicholls.

Baroda Anthem.

" God Save The King "

The Indian Orchestra was also playing at intervals selections of good Indian music and made the atmosphere lively, although several, on account of things more attractive before their eyes, hardly noticed its existence.

Those who had fair partners were very enthusiastic in their conversation, for on occasions like this, it is not difficult to find topics—the fine weather, the rich jewellery, the fountain, the ice-bergs. the Indian music, wrestling, Elephant fights, the fine Palaces and the like; to the critically inclined, the different kinds of people and their idiosyncracies would give enough occupation and to the more serious, there were topics like the educational problems, Self-Government or subjects of Engineering; and suffice it to say that with the variety of subjects at ready disposal, even the most taciturnly disposed ladies found how impossible it was to keep quiet. The lesser fortunate ones, those who had

no partners chatted more freely and looked after their own comforts. And many of them who were teetotallers were busy with "Punch au champagne" which was served, disguised as ices. "This is splendid" said one, as he finished it at the third stroke. It almost seemed as if

"—those eat now who never ate before,

And those who always ate now eat the more "

and he wished an 'encore' but "Punch " had gone and he turned once more to the Menu which revealed



## **Menu.**

### **Dinner.**

**Hors d'Oeuvre Varies.**

**Tortue clair au Madere.**

**Filets de Soles Renaissance.**

**Pate de Foie gras en Belle Vue**

**Perdreau á la Bateliere.**

**Punch au Champagne.**

**Dinde roti et Jamhon d'York**

**Salade Waldorf**

**Asperges Frappe See Mousselene**

**Gateau Chonx Surprise**

**Glace Elite**

**Dessert**

**Cafe.**

The Banquet card was beautifully printed with His Highness the

Maharaja Saheb's monogram on the front page and contained small pictures of Their Excellencies and His Highness with the programme of music and the menu on either side and if the writer had not bagged his card, it would have disappeared for ever and there was literally no other to spare.

And yet with all the diversity in dress or thought, there was the unity of action, all striving to reach one goal and that was the end of the dinner, for, every one was now looking forward to the toasts of the evening. It was about 10.20 when ices were served and the merry party had almost arrived at the end of this pleasant journey when His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar rose and proposed the Toast of His Majesty the King Emperor.

#### **Toast of His Majesty the King Emperor.**

"Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen," said His Highness,

"I rise to propose the health of the King Emperor. It is not necessary to commend this toast to your acceptance nor to indicate the diverse ways in which the English Ruling Family has endeared itself to the affections of the Indian people. The life and conduct of His Majesty the King Emperor constitute the greatest assets of which the Empire is possessed.

For my own part, I recall with gratitude the personal friendship with which His Majesty has honoured me;—it will always remain a cherished memory.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen---

#### **The King Emperor."**

The Band played the national anthem and all the ladies and gentlemen present rose and drank enthusiastically to the health of His Majesty the King Emperor.

His Highness the Maharaja Saheb then proposed the health of the distinguished guests of the evening, Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Reading.

### **Toasts of the Guests of the Evening.**

"Ladies and Gentlemen," said His Highness the Maharaja Saheb, and he spoke with a voice firm and distinct and audible throughout the big Hall.

"I rise again—to discharge the grateful duty that has devolved upon me of proposing the health of our distinguished Guests, Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Reading.

### **A Memorable Event.**

A Viceroy's visit to an Indian State is a memorable event to its Ruling House and its people. To us in Baroda, it is no common privilege to welcome a Viceroy of His Excellency's eminence. He is one of the greatest political figures of our time. For five years, he has held the stage in India, and now I have the honour to greet him in my State when about to leave our shores to enjoy his well earned rest.

He came, no novice in statecraft, but grown grey in service of the Crown. In seeking to dispel the clouds of suspicion and rancour that existed when he undertook his duties, His Excellency displayed consummate courage, patience and wisdom. The more peaceful atmosphere and the stabler financial situation that prevail today point to his success. For these results, the whole of India is under a debt of gratitude to His Excellency. We wish him cordial God-speed, and trust that his future years will be crowded with happiness and yet more renown.

### **Loyalty to the Empire.**

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is customary on these occasions to reiterate the States' loyalty to the British Empire. This I hope it will not be necessary to do in respect of my own State and people. For nearly a century and a quarter of British connection, my State has been unswerving in its obligations to the Empire. Its Loyalty has been tested time and again in the stern duress of war, and its worth has been proved beyond a doubt by its courageous contributions to the problems of Peace.

### **Ideal of a Modern State**

During my regime, I have tried, to the best of my power, to follow



out my ideal of a modern State, keenly alive to the welfare of its people. I have given my beloved subjects the blessings of peace and ordered Government. I have eagerly sought to bring learning not merely to the privileged few, but to the doors of the humblest of my people. In my war against social evils, I have been strengthened by the hope, despite many disappointments, that a widespread educational system will help, in the fullness of time, to crown my efforts with success. Further, my Government has pursued a policy of generous aid to industrial enterprises, as a result of which, though not without losses, many mills and factories have come into existence.

Your Excellencies, it is now over fifty years since Providence called upon me to begin my work in Buroda, and, looking back over this half century of promise and achievement, I feel that, although much remains to be done, I can claim for my State a honoured place in the Indian Empire.

If this be the present, what of the future ?

### **Claims of the Indian States.**

The whole of our sub-Continent is being stirred to its depths by the rebuilding of its constitution. We of the Indian States are watching with deepest interest the progress of British India from stage to stage of self-rule. My earnest wish is that, in the new dispensation, the claims of the Indian States should not be forgotten. They feel that they deserve a liberal treatment in the interpretation of their much cherished rights and privileges.

In the new era, the Indian States now claim a place in the Sun and believing in the justice of the English people, they hope that their ancient rights and dignities will be fully revived.

### **Pillars of the Empire.**

For my own State, it is only natural for me to hope that its original sovereignty will be restored. Over a hundred years ago, the British Government elected to mediate between my House and its tributaries, who were then temporarily handed over to them for the collection of tribute—they elected to collect the tribute on our behalf free of charge.

It was a sacred trust then undertaken. A hundred years of British Peace with progress and order have now ensued. In the interests of efficient Government, and with the utmost solicitude for the good of the Empire, I am prompted to suggest to the British Government that the ancient privileges be now fully restored to their Friends and Allies of old. For, it is only as true allies and partners in a Commonwealth of States that our Indian States can really become pillars of the Empire.

### **Tribute to Lady Reading.**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now turn from these problems to extend our greetings to Her Excellency, Lady Reading. On my return to India, I was happy to learn of Her Excellency's rapid recovery. Yet I was not sanguine enough to hope that her health would permit her to undertake this journey to my Capital. It has, therefore, given Her Highness the Maharani and myself special pleasure to see her here. Though never in the best of health, Lady Reading courageously accompanied her distinguished husband five years ago, on his great adventure to India. Since then, I have watched with admiration the splendid manner in which Her Excellency has fulfilled her exalted function as Vicereine. In all humane movements, such as the campaign against Leprosy, she has admirably seconded the Viceroy's efforts ; and by the very generous lead that she has given to Infant Welfare Organisation throughout the country, Her Excellency has convincingly shown that she holds the golden key to an abiding place in the affections of the Indian people.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of Her Highness the Maharani and myself, I desire you to join with me in extending a very cordial welcome to Their Excellencies and wishing them every happiness under the Sun

I shall ask you now to drink to the health of my distinguished Guests—

### **Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Reading. "**

His Excellency was carefully listening to the speech, and now and then a soft smile was visible on his face and at the conclusion of the speech, he complimented the Maharaja Sahab. The toasts were drunk most cordially, every one of the party wishing Lord and Lady Reading long life and every happiness.

### **His Excellency the Viceroy's Speech at the Banquet.**

"Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen," said His Excellency the Viceroy who was loudly cheered as he rose.

"I thank Your Highness for the cordial welcome you have extended to Her Excellency and myself and for the very kind words in which you have alluded to us both. It is invariably a gratification to me to find Her Excellency's efforts in the cause of humanity and relief of suffering appreciated and Your Highness' generous expressions in recognition of our achievements in this direction have given me great pleasure. Your Highness has made eloquent references to myself for which I thank you sincerely.

### **Historical Importance.**

My visits to Indian States would have been incomplete if I had not been able to include among them a visit to Baroda, and I am glad that I have been able to do so this year notwithstanding the crowded programme of the few weeks that remain of my period of office. I need not assure Your Highness that the historical importance of this State, its long and honourable connection with the British Crown and Government of India and the progressive lines on which its administration has been conducted by Your Highness entitled it to the highest consideration from me and from those who may succeed me in the office of Viceroy and Governor General.

### **The Jubilee Anniversary**

It is source of special pleasure to me that my visit to Your Highness coincides with the celebrations of the Jubilee Anniversary of your succession to the Gadi of this State. I heartily congratulate Your Highness on this auspicious event and offer you my warmest wishes for the future. May Your Highness long be spared to guide the destinies of your State and to labour for the advancement of your subjects. May your subjects long enjoy the felicity of your rule and profit by those wise schemes of development which it has been your pride to devise and execute in the interests of their welfare.

## **Baroda's Services to the Empire**

I need not dwell in detail on the earlier history of the connection of the Baroda State with the Government of India. Suffice it to say that more than a hundred years have passed since it began, and that from the outset to the present day loyalty to the British connection has been revered as a sacred obligation in the State. On those occasions when there has been opportunity to put that obligation into practice, the Rulers of the State have not hesitated to demonstrate their fidelity to that tradition. In the days of the Mutiny, the Gaekwar of Baroda openly supported the British cause and took all possible measures to preserve peace in Gujarat. In the crisis of Great War, Your Highness, true to the same tradition exerted yourself to the utmost to help the cause of the Empire. I need not enumerate all the services rendered at that time by Your Highness and your State: but I may note that besides recruitment of combatants and non-combatants for our forces, Your Highness lent your Palace at Bombay for use as a war Hospital and made contributions amounting to approximately 60 lakhs in cash for war purposes.

## **Administrative and Social Reform**

Not less well known are the administrative and social measures with which Your Highness' name will be always associated and to which you have alluded with such marked modesty in your speech. Your Highness' rule has been characterised by the deep thought you have given to these problems and the personal attention you have devoted to securing that there should be progress and that progress should be along sane lines. Your Highness has wisely concluded that no worthy superstructure can be raised unless the foundations have been well laid and constructed from sound materials. You have conceived that the first essentials for the well being of your State are the establishment and maintenance of law and order and the provision of an efficient administrative machine and you have successfully laboured to provide these requirements. You have rightly decided that general progress must rest on a broad basis of better social and economic conditions and wider facilities

for education among your subjects; and you have given effect to your convictions by arrangements for free and compulsory Primary education and extensive facilities for higher education and by measures to promote the social and economic welfare of the people.

### **Great and Beneficent Measures.**

In all these measures Your Highness has displayed the greatest consideration for the interests of your subjects and the wisest forethought in equipping your State to meet any changing conditions which the future may hold in store. It is not vouchsafed to all men to reap where they sow or to see the results for which they have laboured. The work of many men brings happiness and profit only to those who follow after them. In your case, however, Your Highness has not only provided for the satisfaction of your successors, for the welfare of your State and for the happiness of your people in the future, but you have also been rewarded by seeing many great beneficent changes for which you laboured actually come to pass in your State in your own time. Your Highness may indeed look back on the 50 years during which you have been the Ruling Prince of this State, with a sense of duty well done

### **Position of Indian states**

Your Highness has alluded to the position occupied by the Indian States side by side with the gradual development of self-governing institutions in British India. Let me remind Your Highness that at the time of the inauguration of the Reforms Scheme in British India, the position of the Ruling Princes and the Indian States was most carefully and scrupulously considered; and the sanctity of treaties and the intention to preserve and maintain the rights and privileges of the Indian Princes was specially and solemnly reaffirmed by His Majesty the King Emperor in a Royal Proclamation. At the same time, without prejudice to the relations subsisting between the Paramount Power and each individual State, the Ruling Princes as a body by the institution of the Chamber of Princes were given an opportunity of taking a wider part in the destinies of India and the Empire by offering counsel in questions affecting the States as a whole or the States and British India and by

association in the discussion of certain questions of Imperial concern.

### **Privileges of Princes.**

I can assure Your Highness that you need have no apprehension that, when any future enquiry is held regarding constitutional advance in British India, the position of the States and the privileges of the Princes will run any risk of being ignored or injuriously affected. I am convinced that their interests will be most carefully borne in mind and considered. British India is still in the first stage of her journey towards responsible Self-Government. At this moment I shall not speculate on the precise position the States may occupy when a final stage in development has been reached; but of this I am certain that at all times, whatever changes may be under consideration the claims of the States will continue to receive the attention to which their position and importance in India and the Empire justly entitle them.

Your Highness has referred to special representations which you have made regarding your own State. I cannot discuss them tonight, for these representations are still under examination. Your Highness may, however, rest assured that when the examination has been completed, they will receive the most careful and impartial consideration at the hands of myself and my Government.

### **Pleasant Recollections.**

Let me thank Your Highness once more for your cordial welcome, and the hospitality you have extended to Her Excellency and myself. Your Highness has been most thoughtful in providing all that could interest and charm us during our visit. We shall carry away the most pleasant recollections of our visit to Baroda and of the friendly feelings of Your Highness and Her Highness the Maharani towards us. Permit me to add that I greatly esteemed the privilege of meeting Her Highness.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me now ask you to join me in drinking the health of our illustrious host, His Highness the Maharaja Gaikwar, and in wishing him many years of happiness and prosperity. "

The Band played the Baroda National Anthem and all present

rose once more and drank most enthusiastically to the health of His Highness the Maharaja Sahib, who smiled and acknowledged the warm and loving feelings of those assembled.

His Highness the Maharaja Sahib who was overpowered with feelings, rose once more and said :

**Reply of His Highness the Maharaja Sahib.**

“ Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I find it very difficult to express the thanks of Her Highness the Maharani and myself adequately to His Excellency for the exceedingly kind manner in which he has proposed the toast of our health, and to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for the kindly way you have responded to the proposal.

I feel that all I have tried to do during my life is fitly summed up in Shakespeare's words :—

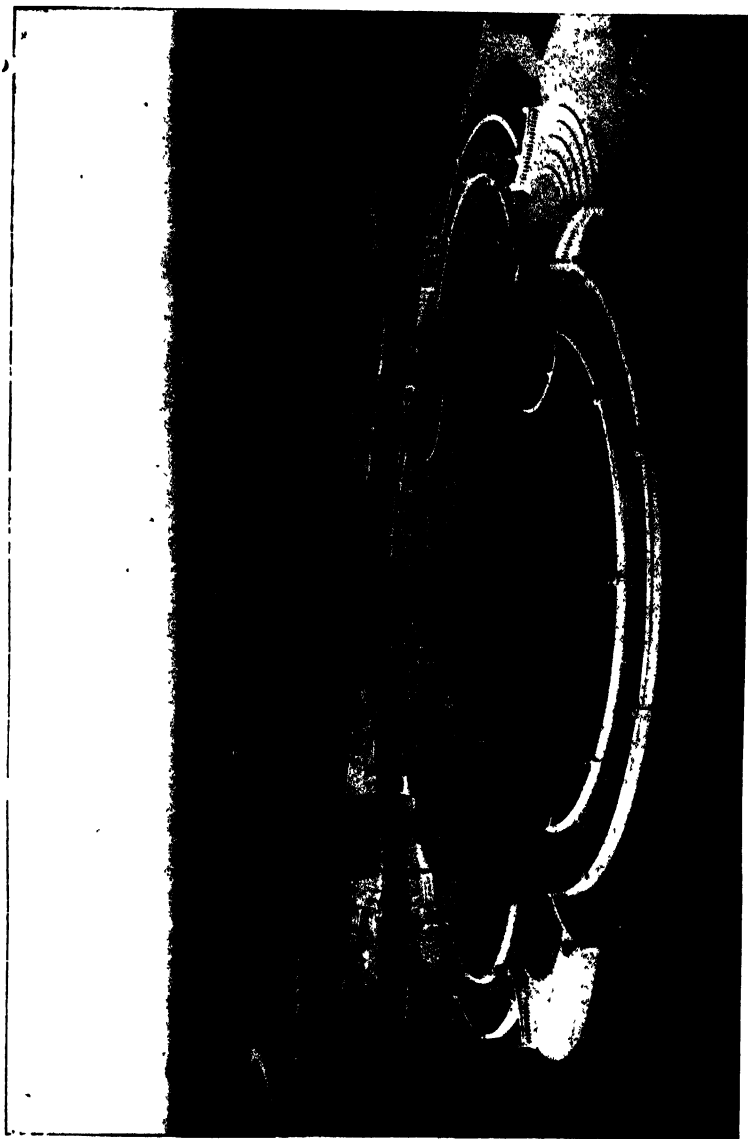
“ Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's,  
Thy God's and truth's. ”

We thank you all most sincerely. ”

**Fireworks.**

It was now eleven when this great function was over and the principal guests with Their Highnesses made a slow move towards the main porch of the Palace, while the others moved towards the garden in front of the Palace to witness the Fireworks. Her Excellency Lady Reading was tired and wished to go back to Makkarpura and was seen off by Their Highnesses whom she profusely thanked for the splendid hospitality, after which His Excellency and Their Highnesses went up by the lift and took their seats in the Western terrace of the Palace from where a fine view of the sunk gardens could be had and where the Fireworks were to be displayed.

All the principal guests had assembled here to witness this great battle of Fire and from the large volumes of smoke in the centre of the balcony, one could easily see that the Viceroy and the Gaekwar were both



**View of the Sunk Gardens, Laxmivillas Palace.**



enjoying the beautiful weed ; the former really liked it, while the latter smoked only for fun. The Maharaja Sahib belongs to the non-smoking class, though he keeps the best Havanas for his guests and on this occasion, he was admiring the little puffs of smoke that he let out mechanically and that was all. Neither His Highness' Minister Sir Manubhai nor his Huzur Kamdar and Naib Dewan Rao Bahadur Ambegaoker is a lover of the weed. They love "tippans" and if they still don't change their minds, any proposal to levy a fresh duty on tobacco might readily meet with their approval. A few of the fair sex however, indulged in smoking, scarcely not minding of the several discomforts attendant which play havoc more or less with their beauty.

But, lo ! a terrific bomb exploded in the sky and everyone got a shock and looked up to the Heavens to view the beautiful spectacle of a thousand pretty stars dropping down, almost as if they were going to drop on the heads of the spectators. The battle of the Fire had begun and the fire pigeons were flying while the Niagara Falls appeared natural and spendid.

### **A Fairy Scene.**

The visitor looks upon a fairy scene. The pavilions, courts, balconies and the lines of the Palace itself are picked out in points of fire and the whole is mirrored in the waters of the Fountain. The fireworks leap into the sky rockets, great globes of many colours, fountains spouting golden fire and pictures of forts outlined in flame and firing heavy broad sides from mimic cannoneer.

Elephant and buffalo fights and elephants in trees were exhibited in fire and triumphal electric arches were shown, only to vanish the next moment. The whole thing looked like a dream. The opening salute and "Welcome" were very impressive, while there were coloured shells and rain shells, star shells and those producing serpents. Beautiful designs of all kinds were exhibited but only to end in smoke and at the conclusion, the Flower wheel tree, the necklace, and the electric arch produced no small amount of mirth and the triple gate with portraits of Their Majesties the King Emperor and the Queen Empress, Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Reading and Their Highnesses the Maha-

raja and Maharani of Baroda showed something very original and highly creditable to the manufacturer and when all the rockets had been mixed with the oxygen of the air, a big "good night" was shown, not on a bald head, as they do in a Cinema at the conclusion of the show, but in living fire, and His Excellency rose to depart and said "good night" to Their Highnesses, whom he thanked most warmly, remarking that he had thoroughly enjoyed himself that night.

The Viceroy accompanied by the Political Secretary and the Private Secretary left Laxmivilas and the car was soon wending its way to Makkarpura. It was an extremely busy day for His Excellency, for he had come and seen "Vidit" lots of interesting things and had learnt a lot about Baroda but he was still anxious to see more.

"I should have loved to pay a visit to the Library, for instance or the Museum and the Picture Gallery of which I have heard so much." "Unfortunately, we are hard up for time" remarked Sir Geoffrey, as the Viceroy got out of the car in the porch at Makkarpura. His Excellency was tired, after the busy day and said "Good night" to the officers and retired. The cold breeze carried the peculiar fragrance of the Eastern flowers into the inner rooms and silence reigned supreme save for the murmur of rustling leaves while the garden lights blazed brilliantly and the trees behind stood revealed against the smiling moon.

### **The Study Room.**

His Highness for some time, as usual, walked up and down the long corridor from his favourite Study Room at one end to the Drawing Room at the other: It is in the former that His Highness devotes regularly the best hours of the morning to the study of serious literature with an earnest desire to learn and it is here, sitting at his master's feet with books like Chamberlain's "Civilisation" or Economics that the present writer received rare words of sapience. And were there an artist of a right spirit, a man of wisdom conscious of his high vocation who embodies in his deeds the creations of a noble soul, should we not draw near to him reverently, as disciples to a Master? Of him, we may say that he

**"Saw distant gates of Eden gleam,  
And did not dream it was a dream."**

### **A Day After The Fair.**

The guests who had assembled to witness the Fireworks had departed, as there was nothing more to do but to retire, when all of a sudden, Lady Reading's car slowly motored along but out rushed Capt. Maclean. He had escorted Lady Reading to Makkarpura, but was determined not to miss the Fireworks. So, after taking leave of Her Excellency, he asked the driver to take him straight to Laxmivilas. But alas, the Police arrangements ! nowhere in the programme had it been marked that Capt. Maclean was to go to Laxmivilas at that hour. The Police were maintaining order and no motors were allowed to pass, while the Commissioner of Police was admiring the fountains spouting golden fire. And so, the car was detained at every junction, till at last by some sheer piece of luck, it managed to get its "line clear" and reached Laxmivilas just after the guests had departed. "I believe the Fireworks have been splendid, as everything else has been" said Capt. Maclean, "but why the car was detained is still a mystery." And so, at one in the morning, the car with two occupants went back to Makkarpura, but this time unmolested, while the Battle of Fire had successfully been fought, to the satisfaction of the illustrious host.

**"The great brand**

**Made lightnings in the splendour of the Moon,  
And flashing round and round and whirled in an arch  
Shot like a streamer of the Northern morn."**

## **CHAPTER IV.**

### **Vici.**

#### **Wild Animals of Baroda.**

To those who are fond of Sport, Baroda provides plenty of amusement. There are the famous lions found in the Gir forests and some times in the adjoining parts of the Kodinar and Dhari Talukas of Amreli, while tigers are occasionally found in the Vajpur and Namchal ranges of the Navsari district forests. The panther is also found in some of the hills but it has almost disappeared from the plains. This animal is exceedingly daring and cunning and we hear of more people killed and wounded by panthers than either by lions or tigers. The hyaena is common and possesses powerful jaws and a keen scent. He lives on bones and dead animals but will not seek sheep or goats nor will he face the shepherd.

Then there are wolves that frequent grassy plains and hunt with great skill and perseverance, while the jackal who is much smaller than the wolf makes up in cunning for what he lacks in size. Wild pig abound in the Gir forest and hilly country all over the State, as also on the plains in the Baroda and Kadi Districts and vex the cultivators by destroying their good crops. His Highness the Maharaja Khanderao who was very fond of sports carefully cherished two boar preserves, one near the Jambuva River six miles from the capital and the other at Dabka on the bank of the Mahi, 18 miles from Baroda.

Among other wild animals of importance we may mention the porcupine which work much havoc in melon beds, the stag or "Samber," the spotted deer, the antelope, famous for the length of its horns, while

in the Rivers Mahi and Narbada are found crocodiles that are often the terror of a whole neighbourhood, as they seize cattle and sometimes children or even grown up men and women.

So there is enough business for a good shot – he has only to select the sort of game he wants. If he wants game of a simple kind, a twelve bore would dispose of the wild duck and the common teal, the red spur fowl or partridges. At one time, hawking had been a favourite amusement with the Princes and Nobles of Baroda who for the sake of pleasure bred pigeons and kept fighting cocks, partridges, quail and

### **A Tiger Hunt.**

His Highness Sir Sayaji Rao Gaekwar as well as Her Highness the Maharani Saheb are both good shots and are known for their remark-



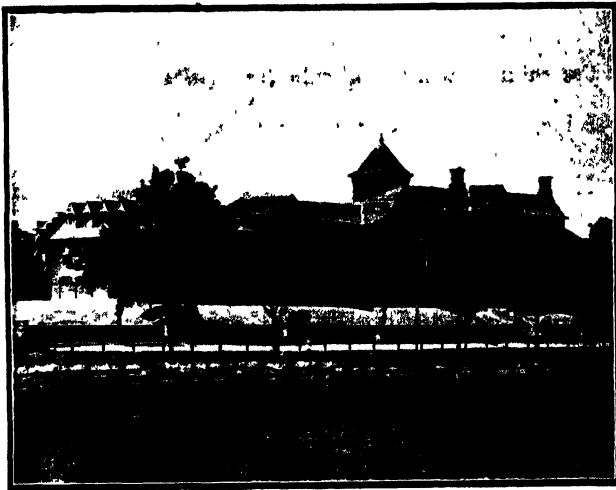
### **With Her Tiger.**

able courage. They have spent days and days in the wild jungles and have bagged not a small number of lions and tigers, some of the latter

fine specimens as they are being stuffed and kept for show in the Laxmi Vilas, near the two staircases.

A tiger hunt is an exciting business. Bullet after bullet is poured into his body but he is rarely killed at once and in his agony, he will often turn upon his pursuers with terrible fury and with the horrible roar of a charging tiger, he hurls himself with tremendous bounds on his foes. His eyes blaze like emeralds and his fangs glitter like ivory. He shoots through the air like a thunderbolt. Now is the time to try the sportsmen's nerve and steadiness of aim. But Her Highness the Maharani Saheb is not afraid.

Her Highness the Maharani Chimnabai Saheb C. I. is known for her personal grace and charm of manner no less than for her ready



**Female Training College.**

wit and brilliance of intellect. She is endowed with great force of character and rare distinction of mind,

“The reason firm, the temperate will,  
Endurance, foresight, strength and skill.”

Her sweet temper combined with her affectionate nature have added to her immense popularity.

Her Highness has been both an earnest student all her life and an author and she has travelled not only all over India but all over the world, eagerly absorbing new scenes and alien civilisations but adopting only the best of them. She has devotedly worked for the betterment of her people and has given an earnest impetus to female education by founding Scholarships for the deserving. The Maharani is fond of tennis and like His Highness the Maharaja Sahib is a great walker.

Her Highness the Maharani Sahib is really fond of shooting and during her tour in Southern India, she disposed of some wild elephants in the Kollengode forests. While in Kashmere, she bagged some huge panthers, not forgetting even the little but swift "chakor." The Maharajkumars have naturally inherited this love of sport and have bagged not a few, though the gun has not been able to diminish the number of the animals, which still rule the forests supreme.

### **The Maharaja's Sport.**

His Highness is also one of the best sports but he also likes pig-sticking and visits Dabka once or twice a year with the Sardars and the British and Indian Officers on a hunting expedition and as enough entertainment is provided, everyone has a good time. The sight of pigsticking is an animated and exciting one. Thousands of beaters have already driven the pigs to the actual scene of action and hundreds of riders advance irregularly through the bush, armed with swords or spears, while crowds of footmen similarly armed or occasionally ready to discharge a gun stand grouped about. At the outlets are posted the elephants whose crimson cloths and gay howdahs would scare the tamest beast of the field while the ladies seated on the elephants would watch the exciting game. As a British Officer has described "the heir apparent wound the stirrup leather round his left wrist and leaning out of his saddle to the right and only held to the horse by the strained leather stirrup, he drew his sword across the boar and cutting through the backbone to the entrails of the animal, he won the tusks."

## **The Cheeta Hunt.**

The entertainment provided for Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Reading by His Highness the Maharaja Saheb on the morning of the twenty third was of a different nature. Neither horses nor guns were wanted, though both were kept ready, the former for any who wished to ride and see the sport and the latter kept for the use of the Viceroy in case His Excellency preferred to shoot. There was no exhibition of skill or courage that was demanded ; all that one had to do was to watch and see. It was the Cheeta versus the deer, not a battle in which the cheeta fought with the deer but it was a running race, the former chasing the latter till he held him by the neck and killed him.

As in hawking, one bird wild by nature is taught to pursue and destroy another, so in hunting, recourse is had to the cheeta for the purpose of killing deer and other game. The cheeta is a kind of leopard, about four feet in length, of a pale, fulvous colour and marked with numerous black spots. The fur is somewhat crisp and the tail is long and somewhat bushy at the extremity and it is found in Africa and Southern Asia, and has been employed for centuries in hunting antelope and other game.

### **Sundarpura.**

The Cheeta Hunt was arranged to take place at Sundarpura, at 8.30 in the morning and all arrangements were made under the supervision of Mr. B. S. Bantake, the Police Naib-Suba. The people of the neighbouring villages were warned, by a beat of the drum, not to approach the Dhaniavi forest for fear of disturbing the game. Sundarpura is the name of a small village, by the side of Makkarpura where there are excellent preserves and it is one of the most favourite places so often frequented by the Maharaja and as the road is usually bad, His Highness prefers to go on horseback.

The morning was cool and refreshing as ever, for the climate unlike the extremes of Northern India is temperate—its warmth is not heat, its coolness not cold. Everybody was up earlier than usual on this important Saturday. This day named after the God Saturn is con-



sidered a lucky day. The Romans feasted and drank in honour of Saturn while the English and Indians consider it as the pleasantest day in the week. Two of the Welsh Fusiliers were busy, as early as five in the morning, making arrangements to hoist the Union Jack on the tower of the Viceregal residence, as the old staff had to be replaced by a new one. It was a difficult job on account of the peculiar construction of the tower but it was cleverly done and at sun-rise, the Royal Standard was once more flying from the heights of Makkarpura.

### **The Maharaja's A. D. Cs.**



**Major  
Sadekar Powar.**

**Major  
B. V. Gaikwad.**

**Capt.  
Makbul Hussan.**

At Laxmivilas the A. D. Cs were all ready at six and would have perhaps been ready much earlier, had not one of the orderlies who was asked to wake them up insisted in the early hours of the morning, on repeatedly opening the window as he thought and gone to bed thinking it was yet dark. Whether it was the window or the ward-robe that was opened, it is hard to tell, but all is well that ends well.

### **The Welshman's Curiosity.**

" Excuse me, Sir, " said the Welshman, as he descended from the tower after hoisting the flag and prepared to leave the Palace " Couldn't you Sir, say me which the famous " Gaekwad " King of Baroda who

sleeps on bed of gold ? ” Evidently he was anxious to have a closer glimpse of His Highness the Gaekwar and to satisfy his curiosity, he was asked to wait and watch the Rolls Royce with the State flag flying on it which would bring His Highness to Makkarpura at 8.30 and so there he waited in a quiet corner to watch the stately arrival of the magnificent Rolls.

### **Watches and Judgments.**

The members of the Viceregal Staff were all waiting for His Excellency and it was ten minutes to the appointed time. “ What time do you make ? ” said Hon’ble Mr. Thompson. “ Eight seventeen ” said Col. Worgan. “ I make it eight eighteen ” said Sir Norman while Capt. Gage Brown made it eight twenty four while the Gaekwar’s officer on duty said “ eight twenty one ” and to Col. Worgan’s desire to know the exact time said “ we shall strike the average ” and so it was, as the correct time telephoned was eight twenty. It was necessary to know the exact time to enable all appointments to be kept to the scheduled time. But,

“ Tis with our judgments as our watches,

None go just alike, yet each believes his own. ”

### **The German “ Caterpillar. ”**

At this time, a car with an unusual noise was entering the Palace but by some curious irony, it was not the Rolls. His Highness the Maharaja Saheb wore English dress and as the Welsh guard neither noticed the Rolls nor the flag, he was rather diffident about presenting arms which he however did, no sooner he heard “ Good morning, Maharaja Saheb ” from the Political Secretary who came down to receive His Highness, who arrived punctually at the appointed time.

It was a ten horse power German “Citron Caterpillar,” with the maximum speed of 25 miles an hour and had cost His Highness about eight thousand. His Highness who is generally fond of making experiments had bought this car, specially for Shikar purposes and had actually travelled in it from Savli to Baroda, a distance of about 20 miles, on

a fairly bad road. The car was fitted with a torpedo body and was being minutely examined by the members of His Excellency's staff when the Viceroy came down, fresh and ready for the intended journey. "It is a wonderful looking car" said His Excellency and His Highness explained certain peculiarities of this car and the object with which he had bought it. The driver's seat had to be turned round to enable the Viceroy and the master of the car to get into it after which the seat was brought to the original position and the car left for Sundarpura. Both the Maharajkumars were present and left in their cars, accompanied by the rest of the party. Her Excellency preferred to have a quiet time and was not anxious to see the slaughter of the innocents.

The party reached Sundarpura, a distance of four miles from Makkarpura in fifteen minutes and left for Dhaniavi, the scene of action,



**Tonga Drive to Dhaniavi.**

in tongas. There is the village tank on the way which provides water to the people and the animals of the thick "Babul" forest which covers an area of about 600 acres. There were two 'cheetas' and four tongas used on this occasion; consequently, the shikar was arranged in two parties. The first tonga conveyed His Excellency the Viceroy, His Highness the Maharaja Saheb and Capt. Maclean, A. D. C. to the Viceroy, while the second, three mem-

bers of the Viceregal staff. The second party consisting of the remaining staff proceeded by a different route. It was interesting to watch hundreds of buck, on the way, fleeing for their lives, for they evidently

knew that the enemy had invaded their territories and the swiftest of them were the luckiest.

### **Picturesque Sport.**

The cheeta Hunt is the most picturesque royal sport. This mode of hunting is said to have originated with Hushung, King of Persia, as early as 865 B. C. and later became so popular that certain of the Mongol Emperors were in the habit of being accompanied in their sporting expeditions by a thousand cheetas.

The hunters stalk the buck, concealed in camouflaged village carts on one of which is the blind folded cheeta, curtained off and secured by a leash. On the buck being sighted, the cheeta is released and an exciting chase ensues, the cheeta, by reason of its extraordinary speed being quickly lost to view in the jungle, while the buck makes for the cover instantly. At first the cheeta approaches steadily, making use of



**The Cheeta and His Victims.**

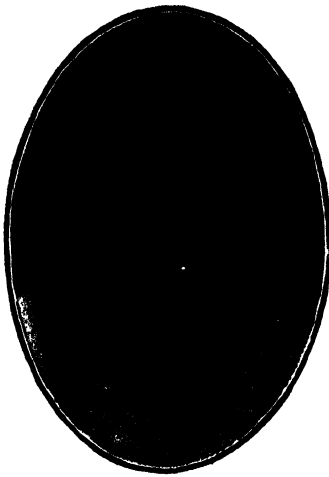
whatever means of concealment the nature of the ground permits, until observed, when making a few gigantic bounds, it arrives in the midst of the herd and brings down its victim with a stroke of its paw. The Viceroy's Cheeta managed to dispose of two black bucks, while the second cheeta killed one. After inspecting the victims, His Excellency had a mind to try the gun, but was not very keen, as he had shot many black bucks before and had no desire to reduce the

number of those living and so the party left the hunting rendezvous and returned to Sundarpura, fully satisfied at having seen a thrilling race and after partaking of some light refreshments in the State rest house, returned to Makkarpura at ten.

### **The Children's Gathering.**

The spacious hall of the Nyaya Mandir or the Temple of Justice is practically the Town Hall for Baroda.

It is here that lectures are sometimes delivered or exhibitions held and important public functions take place and it was in this very place that the children of all the schools in their holiday attire had assembled to entertain Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Reading on the morning of the twenty third.



**Mr. N. K. Dixit.**  
**Commissioner of Education.**

The Hon'ble Mr. Thompson and Sir Geoffrev de Montmorency wished to see the Museum and the famous picture gallery of which they had heard so much and left the Palace at eleven, intending to visit the Nyaya Mandir direct from the Museum.



**Rao Saheb D. K. Apte,**  
**Indian Assistant to the Resident**

The task of making the gathering as successful as possible was entrusted to Mr. N. K. Dixit, Commissioner of Education and Miss



**The Nyaya Mandir.**

**M. A. Needham, Principal of the Maharani Guls' School and with the help of Mr. Pinakiprasad Desai and Mrs. Pagar, an excellent programme was**

arranged. Members of His Excellency's suite, the Resident, the First Assistant, the Indian Assistant and the European Officers and ladies and gentlemen from the Camp and the principal sardars and officers of the State, merchants, mill-owners and official as well as non-official members of the Legislative Council were invited to this function and were received by the Commissioner of Education and the Principal of the Baroda College



**Mr. R. K. Randive,  
Manager Political Office.**

His Excellency the Viceroy left the Palace at 12.3 P. M. and arrived at the Nyaya Mandir at 12.15 when he was received by His Highness. The girl-guides who were arranged on the steps on both sides received them with ovations, while His Highness conducted His Excellency to a seat on the right hand side of the sofa on which His Highness sat.

### **The Programme.**

The programme commenced with a prayer in Hindi, sung by the students of the Music School, after which there were some interesting games and exercises of drill which were very much appreciated. The Marathi boys sang the welcome song wherein as "His Majesty's Viceroy, well-known and most fortunate and now the guest of Sir Sayaji Rao, the citizens, full of joy request His Excellency to bring back the old, old days of happiness and joy". The "garbas or music dances of the little girls holding little water bowls on the head seemed very interesting while the Japanese drill produced roars of laughter. The children were all happy and their joy was complete when "Barfi" or sweets were distributed in due course, in honour of the Viceregal visit. There was "the Summer's Call" which said :





**On the arrival of His Excellency Lord Reading,  
The drum sound of his justice is heard everywhere.**

**Who rules equally the rich and the poor,  
The cheers of joy are spread in the whole  
City, brightening the hearts of the people."**

**The amusement provided by the little children of the different schools was another bright link in the glorious chain of festivities in connection with the Viceregal visit. The delicious music, songs and the tableaux exhibited drew forth applause from His Excellency and His Highness the Maharaja Sahab.**



**The Maharaja Waiting for His Car.**

**After the performance was over, Sir Manubhai Mehta presented garlands and bouquets, attar, rose-water and pansupari to His Excellency the Viceroy and His Highness the Maharaja Sahab, while Mr. Dixit garlanded and gave pansupari to the rest of the Viceregal party.**

His Excellency and His Highness then left the Hall amidst hearty cheers from about a thousand children present in the Hall and as they came out, they found a hung crowd of spectators assembled outside who enthusiastically cheered both the host and the guest. The plenty of open space in front caused by the demolition of a hundred old houses with the idea of providing a fine garden for the people with the big tank on the left and the Leheripura gate on the right revealed His Highness keen desire to kill two birds with one shot to beautify his Capital as well as relieve congestion in the City by providing a pleasure ground for the people. The Viceroy returned to Makkarpura while His Highness after seeing his distinguished guest off returned to the Laxmi Vilas.

### **Lunch at Makkarpura.**

It was 1.30 when the party sat to lunch at Makkarpura. It was a quiet lunch and the only guests were the resident officers and ladies who were staying at Makkarpura, with the officer of the British Guard. Framji had as usual placed the choicest menu on the table and with plenty of homely and genial talk, an hour passed by unnoticed.

The Viceroy gave a glowing account of the cheeta Hunt, but the ladies characterised the game as cruel. The idea of blood was repulsive. "But surely, not to the cheeta" said His Excellency, good humouredly. Sir Geoffrey gave a vivid description of the Museum and Picture gallery which he had visited in the morning remarking that both are of a highly superior order. "I wish I could see these institutions and the Library too" remarked His Excellency "but unfortunately, I find from the programme that I have to leave at 9.45 tonight." In fact, two important functions were yet to come off and there was hardly any "breathing time," as they call it. As it was only a three days' visit and so many engagements had all to get into such a short period, the visit becomes literally a "flying" visit, though there is no aeroplane, for time flies. "And so, we are all flying" remarked Sir Norman with his usual good humour of which he had always a plentiful stock. He was really a "jolly good fellow" and we could indeed say of him,

"With us there was a Doctour of Phisik ;  
In all the world ne was ther noon hym lik.

**He kepte his pacient a ful greet deel ;  
In houres by his magyk natureel. ”**

### **The Museum and Pictures**

**The Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery are situated in the Public Park and the situation is not only advantageous from the point of view of the picturesque setting of the buildings, but is more healthy and more attractive than any other site. Culture and civilisation have always counted Princes and Rulers amongst their most sincere patrons and so it is naturally hoped that they will help to spread a knowledge and appreciation of the concrete achievements of past and present culture and the best means of promoting this cause is the establishment of a**



### **Museum and Art Gallery.**

**Museum and Art Gallery. As libraries are the storehouses of manuscripts and books, so Museums and Art Galleries are the storehouses of concrete objects showing other sides of culture. His Highness the Maharaja Saheb who is a pioneer in so many progressive movements has not failed here also and a visitor therefore cannot but have the highest**

opinion of the comprehensive sympathies and the genuine culture of the Prince who has promoted their establishment.

The Museum includes Industrial Arts, both Indian and Foreign, Natural History, Ethnology, Geology, Archæology and Economic Court and has been thoroughly equipped. In the Picture Gallery, His Highness the Maharaja Sahib has provided his people with two collections of pictures, one Eastern and the other Western which combined in the same building make the institution truly unique. His Highness' purpose is to place before his subjects for their information and instruction, a collection of precious objects of art, the emanations of the genius of man, as to concept and execution, illustrating the course of European and Indian art. There are beautiful pictures of the Flemish, Greek, German and Italian Schools, while the British and French predominate in the collection. The Eastern collection consists of Indian paintings of the leading schools, and it is believed that the collection is the best in the world. There are some exquisite examples of Moghal Painting consisting of illustrations of the Mahabharata and Ramayana, painted during the time of Akbar by his court artists. The Museum and the Picture Gallery owe their excellent condition to the care and energy of Mr. S. Ganguli, the Curator.

### **Eating a Mango.**

The Indian dishes served during luncheon were much appreciated, though His Excellency ate very little; he had "Pila" which he seemed to like, after which he took apples and cream, not forgetting the King of Indian fruits—the mango. Every one ate the mango in English style but the proper way to do justice to this Indian fruit is to eat it in the real Indian fashion, by making a direct attack on it, as the cheeta does its prey. His Excellency observed that during one of his visits to an Indian State, he had seen the Maharaja actually disposing of ten such fruits in Indian style all at one sitting.

After "Cafe" was served, the party proceeded to the main Drawing room and the Viceroy retired to his apartments for an hour's quiet repose, after the busy engagements of the morning. Her Excellency had

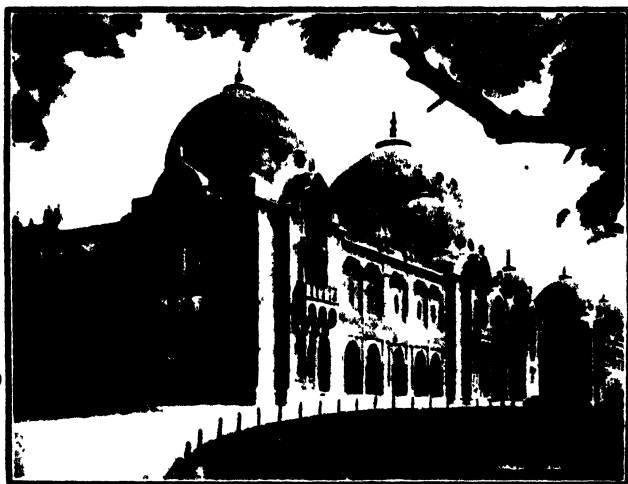
been advised to take complete rest and so reserved all the energies to be able to attend the Garden Party on the Motibag grounds in the evening.

Her Excellency was admiring the beautifully embroidered silk shawls and sarees, articles that would generally drape the white shoulders of their pretty owners, now allowed to hang with artful negligence over the windows and galleries and had therefore given an additional lustre to her drawing room, while the massive corner pots and vases were artistically covered with fine lovely Scarves.

#### **Jubilee Albums.**

Mr. Maneklal Doctor, the proprietor of "Shree Sivaji Vijaya" the popular weekly of Baroda had sent the "Golden Jubilee" albums containing interesting and attractive photographs of Their Highnesses and members of their family for presentation to Their Excellencies and members of the Staff and his gift was much appreciated.

#### **Ceremony of Laying The Foundation Stone of The Science Institute Building.**



**Baroda College.**

A beautiful Shamiana was erected in front of the College Physics Laboratory for the grand ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone of the Science Institute to be performed at the hands of His Excellency the Viceroy and a few minutes before the appointed hour, all the seats were occupied by the guests specially invited for the occasion. There was a large number of ladies and the principal State officials in their Darbar costumes and the professors of the College in academic costume lent picturesqueness to the scene.

The new Institute is to be located in the compound of the Baroda Arts College. A small dais was erected at the Southern end of the Shamiana on which sofas were placed for the accommodation of His Excellency and His Highness who was accompanied by Her Highness the Maharani Saheb, the Dowager Maharani of Cooch Behar and Maharajkumars Dhairyashil Rao and Pratapsinh Rao. His Excellency was accompanied by Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency, the Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Thompson, Col. R. B. Worgan and other members of the staff.

#### **His Highness' Ambition.**

The function was invested with special interest inasmuch as it had been the ambition of His Highness to provide his State with means of attaining scientific knowledge and its application to industries and the ceremony marked the fulfilment of his great dream. His Highness thought that in course of time when the building would be completed and stand open for the use of the Science students in the State, the Stone to be laid by the Viceroy would serve as a constant reminder of the auspicious occasion. The remarkable transformation of Baroda witnessed during the reign of His Highness is due to his own activities.

It was 4.15 P.M. when His Excellency left Makkarpura and he arrived at the Shamiana at 4.30 where His Highness the Maharaja Saheb who had arrived two minutes earlier received him, as he alighted from the car and His Highness conducted the distinguished guest to a seat on his right. Her Highness the Maharani Saheb and her daughter took their seats on the second sofa on the dais. The members of the staff and other British officers and the ladies and gentlemen from the Camp

sat to the right of his Excellency while the Resident, the Maharajkumars, the Minister and the principal Sirdars and officers of the State were seated to the left. The students were glad to occupy the verandah of the Laboratory for viewing the ceremony.

Sir Manubhai N. Mehta who occupies the position of the Chief Minister or Dewan since 1916 then rose and after bowing to His Excellency the Viceroy and Their Highnesses the Maharaja Gaekwar and the Maharani Saheb delivered an address which was as elegant as it was thoughtful. He sketched the origin of the Maharaja Saheb's idea of founding the Institute of Science, described its scope and the advantages likely to accrue not only to the people of the State but to those of Gujarat also.

" Your Excellencies, Your Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen," said Sir Manubhai,

### **The Idea of a Science Institute.**

" The Idea of having a separate Institute of Science at Baroda originated in 1908 with Dr. Jackson, who was long connected with the Sindh Arts College, and also presided over the Baroda College, for over a year. As the Bombay University did not then lay sufficient stress on practical training and laboratory work in Science, Dr. Jackson wished to have an ampler scope for the teaching of his favourite subject, and felt the restraints of the Bombay University too rigid and inelastic for the healthy growth of Scientific knowledge. As the affiliating body, the Bombay University prescribed the standard of teaching and conducted the examinations and practical tests which left little room for the cultivation of Scientific research. Gifted with enthusiasm and a bold imagination, he conceived the idea of having a separate and independent University for Baroda where the teaching of Science could be pursued on original lines more conducive to practical results,

### **The Educational Wealth of Baroda.**

Eighteen years have since rolled by ; and though Dr. Jackson's dream of the Baroda University has not yet been realised, Your Excellency

will be interested to learn that these years have added to the wealth of Baroda in the possession of educational material of various kinds. There is the splendid Baroda College in the first instance which must form the centre of any scheme for the building up of a University. The Baroda College has been fully equipped for the Faculties of Arts and Science, and maintains a high place among her sister colleges of the Presidency for efficiency of teaching and successful results. It is proposed to add the Faculty of Law shortly to the attractions of the College. There is a school of Technology which even draws students from distant parts of the country like the Punjab, Bengal and the Central provinces, who flock to the Kala Bhavan to pursue courses in Mechanical and Electric Engineering, in Chemical Technology and Textile Arts. There is a College for Training Teachers for the Degree of Bachelor of Training under the Faculty of Pedagogy. The Academy of Music and the Classes of Fine Arts like Painting and Sculpture with the handsome Picture Galleries and the Museum are other educational attractions of this City. The architectural wealth of the Capital is also by no means mean. The State maintains a large Central Library with a well-provisioned collection of Oriental Manuscripts for the study of Archæology, Philology, and other ancient lore. Lastly, there is a large and well-run Hospital in the City which can provide useful material for a Medical School. All this varied material can well serve as foundation for the larger structure of a University for Baroda, or, for the matter of that, for the whole of Gujarat, should this more ambitious idea take root in the minds of the people of this province, and Your Excellency, in laying the Foundation Stone of the Science Institute at Baroda, will also earn the merit of making it a centre of academic culture and other civilising activities in the province.

### **Blessings of Science.**

Time was when the academic life of a University was fully engrossed in learned dissertations of Rhetoric and Metaphysical Dialectics when Science was neglected or admitted within the portals of the academy only as a hand-maid of the Humanities ; and the ancient Halls of Learning in Europe resounded with specious disputations of Sophists and with quibbles of wrangling Schoolmen. The most important secrets



of Nature lay concealed and hidden away in unexpected places, and until Bacon inaugurated his new method, there was none to interpret the language of Nature or to apply the powers of Nature to the glory of God and relief of Man's Estate. Knowledge was then recognised as Power, and the blessings of Science came in time to be generously appreciated and widely recognised. And though the last Great War demonstrated that Science could be put to a demoniacal use by being harnessed to the engines of destruction, its beneficent and humane influences in times of Peace are more abiding than its use, or rather abuse, during war. Well has the English Poet Mackay sung :—

" Blessings on Science ; When the Earth seemed old,  
When Faith grew doting, and our Reason cold,  
'Twas she discovered that the world was young,  
And taught a language to its lisping tongue."

### **Victories of Science.**

In the noble words of Dean Farrar, Science " has been as a great Archangel of Mercy, devoting herself to the service of Man. She has laboured not to increase the power of despots or add to the magnificence of Courts, but to extend human happiness, to economise human effort, to extinguish human pain. Where of old, men toiled, half-blinded and half-naked in the mouth of the glowing furnace to mix the white-hot iron, she now substitutes the mechanical action of the viewless air. She has enlisted the Sunbeam in her service to limn for us with absolute fidelity the faces of the friends we love. She has shown the poor miner how he may work in safety even amid the explosive fire-damp of the mine. She has by her anæsthetics enabled the sufferer to be hushed and unconscious while the delicate hand of some skilled operator cuts a fragment from the nervous circle of the unquivering eye. She points not to pyramids built during weary centuries by the sweat of miserable nations, but to the light-house and the steamship, to the railroad and the telegraph. She has restored eyes to the blind and hearing to the deaf. She has lengthened life, she has minimised danger, she has controlled madness, she has trampled on disease. None of our sons should, there-

fore, grow up wholly ignorant of studies, which at once train the reason and fire the imagination, which fashion as well as forge, which can feed as well as fill the mind." These have been the Victories of Science in the past and they have been richly reinforced by the modern discoveries of the Rontgen Rays and of Radium, the inventions of the Wireless and of Aeronautics.

### **The New Institute.**

The memory of Your Excellency's memorable visit to this City will always be sanctified by this noble pile of Building about to be raised as a tribute to the services of Science to Man. The location of class rooms for the teaching of Science in the present College Building leaves room for improvement. Physics classes are separated from Chemistry rooms, and neither have they any easy access to the detached block of Laboratories for practical work. Lecture Rooms in Natural History Sciences have no adjuncts of Botanical Gardens or Model Rooms with Zoological specimens within easy reach. It is now proposed to congregate them together ; for, as Lord Blackstone remarked, " Sciences are of a sociable disposition and flourish best in neighbourhood." The New Science Institute will have a handsome facade about 240 ft. long and will be 50 feet deep with an inner open court measuring about 225 x 140. The front or South section will be of two-storeys with accommodation for Chemistry on the upper floor and some provision for lecture rooms for Botany and Zoology; the rear portion or Northern section will have only one floor accommodating Physics class rooms, the Lecture Theatre and Physical Laboratories. The whole building is estimated to cost about four Lakhs and will enhance the architectural beauty of its environments

### **The Call of Science.**

This array of noble Buildings, the Baroda College, the Science Institute and the High School with their lofty domes and well proportioned spires will for all time hold the torch of knowledge high in this State and serve as beacons of Progress and Light at the very threshold of the Capital. Standing on this eminence, the student will look back on the Universe of God, and forward over the generations of men. Amidst the glowing panorama that would then burst on his view,

**Knowledge of Science will enable him to see that the " Whole round Earth is every way bound by gold chains about the feet of God. " The call of Science would then summon him**

**" To that cathedral below, boundless as his wonder ;  
Whose quenchless lamps the Sun and Moon supply,  
Its choir the winds and waves ; its organ thunder,  
Its dome the sky. " "**

#### **The Viceroy's Speech.**

**His Excellency the Viceroy who was most enthusiastically received, said,  
"Your Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**I thank Your Highness for the kind invitation you have extended to me to take part in today's ceremony. I accepted your invitation with the greatest alacrity both on account of my appreciation of the general advantages expected from the projected institution, in affording extended opportunities of acquisition of practical knowledge in science and adding to facilities for research, and because I wished to show how greatly I had been impressed with Your Highness' achievements in the cause of education.**

#### **Era of Scientific Discovery.**

**On the first point I need not dwell at length, for your Dewan has explained in the most lucid and eloquent manner the scope of the new Institute of Science, the aims it is intended to fulfil and the advantages expected from it. To those like myself who have lived in the 19th century and crossed over into the 20th., it has long been apparent that an era of far-reaching scientific discovery has begun. Day by day, to silent workers and seekers in many an institution such as that it is proposed to build here, nature is slowly revealing her secrets and the mysteries of the universe are being disclosed. Year by year additions are being made to the sum total of human knowledge and a new land of promise is being opened out.**

#### **Advantages of Science.**

**It is already an era of stupendous discoveries and unparalleled**

inventions ; and if we are justified in trying to gauge the future by the immediate past, a period of intellectual exceptional activity and scientific competition lies ahead of us. Those countries which lack the equipment to keep pace with it, will lag behind not only in the march to progress but even in what may be within a very few years the essential conditions of serviceable existence, and this holds true even in a country of conservative traditions like India. The application of Science is the key to the improvement of the great staple industry of this country, agriculture. It is upon science that progress in the ordinary needs of the community, as for example, better communications, improved public health, hygiene and sanitation and the relief of suffering must in future depend. Science is also the handmaid of industry without whose help no industry can expand and flourish. In a word, the happiness of the people in the future is inextricably bound up with efficiency in scientific knowledge and to untold numbers, science may mean the difference between health and disease and between contentment and want. Here I must leave this fascinating subject; but the little I have been able to say may help the public to realise to some extent of what great importance to the welfare of this State this institution may one day become.

### **One More Stone.**

In your project for this institution, Your Highness has added one more stone to the great educational structure which Your Highness has built up in this State and though I have already dwelt last night in my speech at Your Highness' Banquet on your achievements in the cause of Education I desire once more to express my admiration of the liberal conceptions Your Highness has formed of educational needs. To the realisation of those conceptions you have devoted your highest faculties, an absorbing personal attention and an untiring activity.

### **Knowledge, a Certain Cure.**

You have rightly conceived that of the many disabilities and sufferings to which the masses are exposed, ignorance is the potent cause and knowledge is a certain cure; and in proportion as knowledge can be spread among the people, in such measure will the moral and intellectual

well-being of the community improve and expand.

### **Claims of Higher Education.**

Nor have you confined your energies to one portion of the field alone. While realising the importance of a sound general education for the people at large, you have not neglected the claims of higher education in which the selected few may share. You have abundantly provided for the more solid items of intellectual acquirements but at the same time, the arts and graces have not been forgotten.

### **Formation of Taste.**

You have sought to encourage erudition, to promote research and to develop the intellect, but side by side in your academy of music,



### **Laying the Foundation Stone.**

picture galleries and art classes, you have catered for the stimulation of the imagination and the formation of taste. The student in your State may turn at will from the pursuit of modern scientific attainments in your school of technology to the study of the lore of the ancients in your library and museums. The facilities which Your Highness has instituted offer equal attraction to those who desire a general education or those who would devote themselves to special or eclectic courses.

I cannot too highly praise the thought and capacity which Your Highness has devoted to the establishment of this varied and comprehensive scheme for fostering intellectual activities and I feel it a privilege to lay the foundation-stone of an institution which will help to complete the great project you have in mind. "

### **Laying the Foundation Stone.**

After the speeches were over, at the formal request of His Highness the Maharaja Saheb, His Excellency the Viceroy accompanied by Their Highnesses and the Maharani of Cooch Behar proceeded to the place in front of the Shamiana where Mr. V. R. Talvalker, the State Architect explained to His Excellency the Designs for the Science Institute prepared by Mr. Coyle, and the Viceroy temporarily leaving politics aside, held the silver mallet and removing the cement from the silver "tagara" placed it on the spot where the stone was laid. The whole ceremony was done with becoming grace, His Excellency declaring the stone to be well and truly laid, while His Highness thanked him for the trouble.

After the ceremony was performed, the party returned to their respective places under the Darbar Shamiana where His Highness gave Pan-supari to His Excellency, the Resident and the Political Secretary and Sir Manubhai to the rest of the Viceregal party.



**Mr. V. R. Talvalker  
Chief Architect.**

His Excellency and His Highness the Maharaja Saheb then left the place, amidst the cheers of the people present and motored through the city and the Palace grounds, and passing by the sunk gardens of the Palace proceeded to the Motibag grounds.

### **The Garden Party on the Motibag Grounds.**

Motibag grounds presented a scene of extraordinary brilliance. The elite of the city responded to the Garden party held in honour of Their Excellencies and nothing desirable was left undone which would go to enhance the joy of the invited guests. There were entertainments of every imaginable kind while the grounds were brilliantly decorated and illuminated.



### **The Maharaja and the Viceroy in the Motibag Gardens.**

The Sun was about to depart and the air was fine while all about were tall trees with Chinese lanterns and shy flowers—roses, tulips, daffodils and the showy stephanotis and bourgainvilles.

Here are elephants carrying stately howdahs, carved and gilded and hung about with curtains of rich brocade, while long, flowing draperies of cloth of gold embroidered in lovely patterns and dazzling colours sweep down the broad flanks of the huge slow moving beast and almost brush the ground with long fringed tassels and it was interesting to see how

**Miss Charnaud and His Highness' grand children were enjoying the elephant ride, while the latter smiled at the black beard of the Mohout which was combed and brushed till it shone in the Sun. It was parted**



**The Royal Spectators.**

in the middle and drawn round the face, so that it stood out on either side and the ends were curled. The Mahout wore bright dress, holding in his hand a short spear ending in a hook and a shining point.

Here are beves of ladies who resemble a moving garden with their jewels and their shining silks of every hue that is soft and delicate while the accoutrements of the men glittered in the sunshine. Members of His Excellency's suite, the Resident, the First Assistant, the European officers and ladies and gentlemen from the Camp and the principal Sardars and the officers of State with the leading citizens among whom Sheth Haribhakti, Sheth C Samal Bechar, Sheth C. Javer Laxmichand, Sheth M. Kantawala, Mr. Tulsibhai Amin and Mr. Bhailal Amin were



prominent, all attended the function and were received by the Committee specially appointed for the purpose. Major Wightwick in his enthusiasm to reach Motibag before the other members of the staff had left the College ground as soon as the function was over but his car was stranded on the way owing to a puncture and so he had to be rescued.

At the appointed time, Her Excellency Lady Reading accompanied by Her Highness the Maharani Saheb arrived at the place of entertainment and were received with all honours, and a few minutes later, the Band played the National anthem when His Excellency the Viceroy and His Highness alighted from the Rolls.

### **The Scouts.**

A Guard of Honour composed of His Highness' own Boy Scouts, two hundred in number was arranged just near the tent reserved for the



**The Viceroy with Their Highnesses and Their Grand Children Watching the Shows.**

Viceroy, and His Excellency who is also the Chief Scout for India walked through a long line of arched staves and inspected the Guard of Honour

and expressed himself highly pleased at their smart appearance. The Scout movement was initiated in the State in 1920 and during seven years has extended all over the State and there are today four thousand scouts. During the Viceregal visit, they lined the roads and helped the police in keeping order and at the Garden party, they were in charge of all the stalls.

### **Entertainments.**

There were entertainments of every imaginable kind, the State acrobats showing the Tower of Babylon and the grand spire, dancing on soft Indian sweets, sharp swords, pointed nails and Mill saws, and parrots performing acrobatic feats, while the Indian Orchestra, the State



**The Parrot and His Coin.**

Band added to the liveliness and mirth of the party. The professional musicians were in good form and sang side by side. In short, there were so

many interesting things that it was difficult to concentrate one's attention on one particular object. Here was an expert showing his skill at throwing arrows and there was the parrot wearing a small hat and dressed like a doll taking a cinema film or driving a car while another climbed the ladder or held an umbrella but his cleverest trick was taking the coin that you want, gold or silver from out of a small box containing several of them. The Huzurat Paga Band blew with all their might, moving their heads as well as their little clarionets round and round but fortunately they were at a safe distance.

### **Good Luck.**

Both Their Excellencies and Their Highnesses were freely moving among the guests of the evening who had assembled at Motibag and what was extra-ordinarily lucky was that no sedan chair or toy carriage



**The High Table on the Motibag Lawn.**

was necessary for Her Excellency Lady Reading or His Highness the Maharaja Sahib and even the Dewan was not limping.

After witnessing these performances, His Highness the Maharaja Saheb conducted Their Excellencies to the high table where refreshments were served, Framji taking care that nothing was omitted. All the members of His Highness' family, members of the Viceregal staff and the principal guests sat at this table while the other guests partook of the refreshments served for them on separate tables.

It was now seven and getting dark and when Framji's ices arrived the Viceroy had risen to depart. Lady Reading was immensely delighted to have been able to attend this pleasant function which she enjoyed so much and the Viceroy and Her Excellency both thanked Their Highnesses and departed for Makkarpura. As the car left, three ringing cheers were called for the Chief Scout for India and the Scout and the State Bands struck up the National Anthem. Their Highnesses also departed amidst the deafening cheers of the Scouts who soon made themselves perfectly "at home" with the balance of the chocolates and fruits at their disposal.

#### **Kind Hearts.**

The principal functions were over and it was now seven fifteen when His Excellency the Viceroy invited some of the principal officers to meet him at the Palace, to express his gracious appreciation. Photographs were exchanged between His Excellency and the Maharaja Saheb who also presented his photographs to the Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Thompson, Sir Geoffrey de Montmorency and Col R. B. Worgan. His Excellency appeared deeply moved and there was an air of sadness visible on everyone's face. The Viceroy warmly shook hands with everyone and in presenting beautiful mementos, cordially thanked Mrs. Kealy and Major and Mrs. Wightwick and Sir



**Rao Bahadur B. A. Ghadge**  
**Police Commissioner.**

**Manubhai.** The latter he complimented on the excellence of the arrange-



**Major R. S. Parab  
Khangli Karbhari.**

ments, remarking that they could not have been better and that he had thoroughly enjoyed the visit. Among others, His Excellency also thanked Rao Bahadur Ghadge, the Commissioner of Police, Major R. S. Parab, the Khangli Karbhari and Mr. K. N. Panemanglor the Special Duty Officer at Makkarpura for the excellent arrangements remarking to the last of them about "the personal care taken in so splendidly looking after" Lady Reading and himself. It is His Excellency's kind heart that had prompted him to express these generous feelings but the officers, under the guidance of their beloved Master had only done their duty with pleasure.

**The Gaekwar expects every man to do his duty.**

तस्मादसक्तः सततं कार्यं कर्म समाचर ।  
असक्तो व्याचरन्कर्म परमाप्नोति पुरश्च ॥  
.....  
लोकसंग्रहमेवापि संपश्यन्कतुमर्हसि ॥

'Without attachment, constantly perform action which is duty, for by such action, man verily reaches the Supreme. Having an eye to the welfare of the world also, thou shouldst perform action.'

## **Dinner at Laxmivilas.**

### **Aine-Hall.**

The Aine-Hall at the Laxmivilas was beautifully decorated and illuminated as Their Excellencies were to be entertained to Dinner here

before their departure from Baroda. The glass pillars were decorated by double loops of flower garlands while the tables were lined by groups of crotons which were edged with rockery. Three groups of ferns adorned the centre while two imposing groups of crotons were placed on both the sides of the Hall. Tiny electric grapes were scattered about on the table while the brilliant chandeliers shone on the beautiful paintings on the four walls-- work of Ravi Varma, the Master artist, scenes representing ancient Hindu Mythology. The oblong dining table had a painted surface of greenish gold on which were placed orange coloured glass bowls piled with fruits and sweets and glass orange trees in greeny Venetian glass pots while shield shaped silver scones holding electric candles diffused a soft and agreeable light and in uniformity with the table, the chairs were old walnut.

It was 8.20 when His Excellency the Viceroy accompanied by Lady Reading slowly descended the steps and entered the car that was waiting at the porch. "We are so sorry to leave" said Her Excellency, smiling, as she walked, being supported by His Excellency. "Thank you so much for all you have done for us" and the car passed through the brilliantly lit gardens and reached the Laxmi Vilas gate where thousands of people from the city as well as from outside Baroda had turned up in rare holiday attire once more to have a look at the distinguished guests and to view the grand illuminations at the gate.

Their Excellencies alighted at the porch and were received by His Highness and his Minister. Here as one alights, is the lofty hall of white marble opening at the top into a gallery of carved cedar. The hall is paved with a rare green marble of great beauty and in the middle, there is a table also of the same marble where years ago, the once aide-de-camp, the author, with his heart beating 'tick, ' 'tick' had his first interview with his Royal Master. Here are five bronze statues representing a dancing girl, a Fakir, a bhitti and a huntsman with two cheetas in leash and a bearded musician with his "Sarinda," all the pretty work of a French sculptor while the hall in front contains the tigers that fell to the Maharaja's rifle and other fine trophies. From here rises the grand staircase of white marble, inlaid with gold, displaying a peacock

in Mosaic with marble statues holding ornamental electric globes on either side, while from the coloured glass ceiling hang great chandeliers of finest crystal.

### **The Maharani Sahab's Hospitality.**

Their Excellencies were then conducted to the Drawing Room upstairs where the Maharaja Sahab, Her Highness the Maharani Sahab with her daughter and the Maharaj Kumars, the Raje Sahab of Savant-wadi and Shri. Sitabai Bhagwat had already assembled, and a move was instantly made towards the Dining Hall where by the burning of incense and the sprinkling of lavenders, the air had been made richly delicious. Mrs. Kealy and Major and Mrs. Wightwick, Lady Mehta and all the members of the Viceregal Staff attended this private dinner, so beautifully arranged by the clever hostess. Her Highness is known for her lavish hospitality and this last function of the evening was an example of the personal attention given by her to make it a success.

The State Band as well as the Indian musicians entertained the party at intervals, during dinner but probably nobody paid much attention to the music, as everybody was deeply engaged in conversing with his neighbour and the homely talk on the table inside add to it the innumerable sweet and rich viands were more attractive than the splendid music outside. The Baroda gun boomed nine when everybody instinctively turned to his watch and after another forty minutes' most delightful tete-a-tete on the table which was literally filled with luxuries of every kind, the party rose and drank most enthusiastically to the health of our illustrious King Emperor. In another two minutes, Their Excellencies said 'good bye' to Her Highness the Maharani Sahab, profusely thanking her for her hospitality and saying how happy they were in Baroda during the three days which passed so quickly.

### **Departure.**

There were no ceremonies observed, as the departure of His Excellency the Viceroy was private. Their Excellencies reached the station at 9.45 and shook hands with Sir Manubhai Mehta, Major Wightwick, the Police Commissioner, the Khangi Karblari and the Special Duty Officer who were present on the platform. His Highness

the Maharaja Sahib arrived a minute later and Their Excellencies, after a most cordial shake of hands said 'good bye' to the Ruler of the Premier State in India, after which the Viceregal Special steamed away amidst the cheers of the people. It was the victory of love, a realisation of the ideal placed by the Persian poet

*" Rehm koon oo bee fowj der teskeen bash  
Dilha-e-alem gheer oo shah-e-alem-gheer bash*

" Be merciful and learn to conquer without an army  
Seize upon the hearts of mankind and be acknowledged the  
World's Conqueror ".

The Viceroy and the Gaekwar parted but each carried away the most pleasant memories. It was the unalloyed victory won, so to say by the " inward fragrance of each other's heart "

" Peace be around thee, wherever thou ro'v'st  
May life be for thee one Summer's day,  
And all that thou wishest, and all that thou lov'st  
Come smiling around thy sunny way.



**“ Beauty is truth, truth beauty,—that is all  
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know. ”**

## CHAPTER V.

### Vale.

#### Pleasant Impressions.

The night had far advanced and though it was about eleven, His Highness the Maharaja Saheb was resting on one of his favourite arm-chairs on the balcony of the Palace while the Maharani Saheb and the principal ladies of the family were indulging in a little "Pan," Her Highness the Maharani Saheb occasionally taking the choicest betelnut from the pretty little gold box studded with diamonds and emeralds, every one remarking at the quick passing away of the three eventful days for which they were all looking forward with eagerness. The Viceroy had come and gone but the impressions left behind were lasting and most pleasant. It was a pleasure to His Highness the Maharaja Saheb to have had the privilege of com-



**Lord Reading as the Lord  
Chief Justice.**

ing into a closer contact with one who as the former Lord Chief Justice of England had earned the widest reputation and as the chief representative of His Imperial Majesty had come to be regarded as one



**City View, Mandvi.**

of the greatest Viceroys of India. The Viceroy's Special had left the Baroda territory and was nearing Godhra but he had not yet retired.

He was thinking of Baroda and its Ruler and the joy was mutual. The beautifully illuminated gate of the Laxmi Vilas, the Sursagar with the Training College for women on its left and the Leheripura Gate, the principal entrance to the city, on its right, the Palaces, the pleasant function at Motibag, these and many others were revolving in his mind and left lasting impressions.

### **The Historical City.**

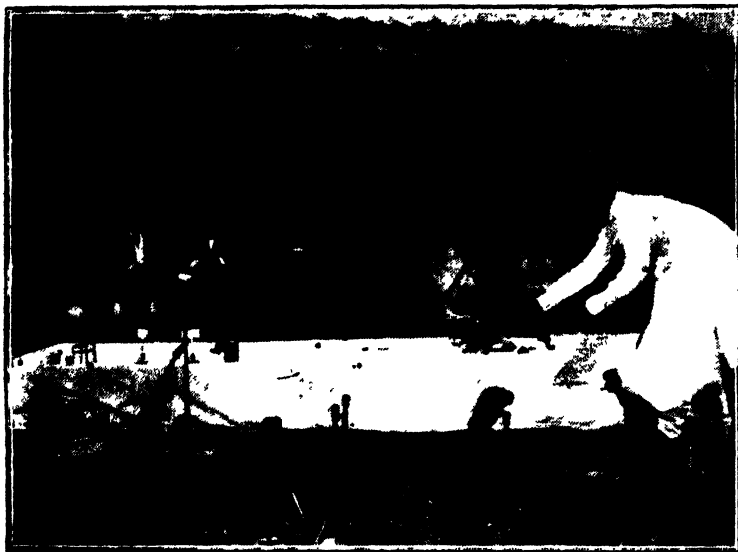
The historical city with its four gates and fifty four bastions on which formerly guns were mounted and Mandvi which is a square pavilion with three bold arches on each side and a clock tower in the centre, the most picturesque and the most busy portion of the city were things not to be easily forgotten.

As His Excellency the Viceroy had said in his famous speech, "My visits to Indian States would have been incomplete, if I had not been able to include among them a visit to Baroda."

### **The Parrots.**

His Excellency had not forgotten even the parrots of the Gaekwar. In fact, it is impossible to do so, as the performance of the parrots exhibited in Baroda is one the most marvellous in the world. It is not an easy job to train parrots whose beaks are ever ready to pounce on any that may approach them...for a parrot is not like a pigeon yet Malumiya Sardarmiya is a great friend of the twenty parrots and they are 'as docile and quiet before him as the little children before their master in a school. It takes his parrot six to twelve months to pass an examination and he has to be careful about his rod, as the parrot may kick the bucket any moment. His Excellency smiled as he thought of the parrots' miniature fire engine or the baby carriage, the clever somer-saults while the greatest feat was hoisting the flag and firing the salute. The last was extremely enjoyable, as the parrot almost like a trained mannikin walked to and fro and ramming in the charge and pouring in the powder, applied the lighted match and was in a great flutter when the miniature gun exploded with a loud report, while His Highness' grand children who were present in the tent almost got a shock and sarted back, at the explosion.

What a pleasure it is, with the assistance of memory to call the several scenes enacted within so short a space as three days !



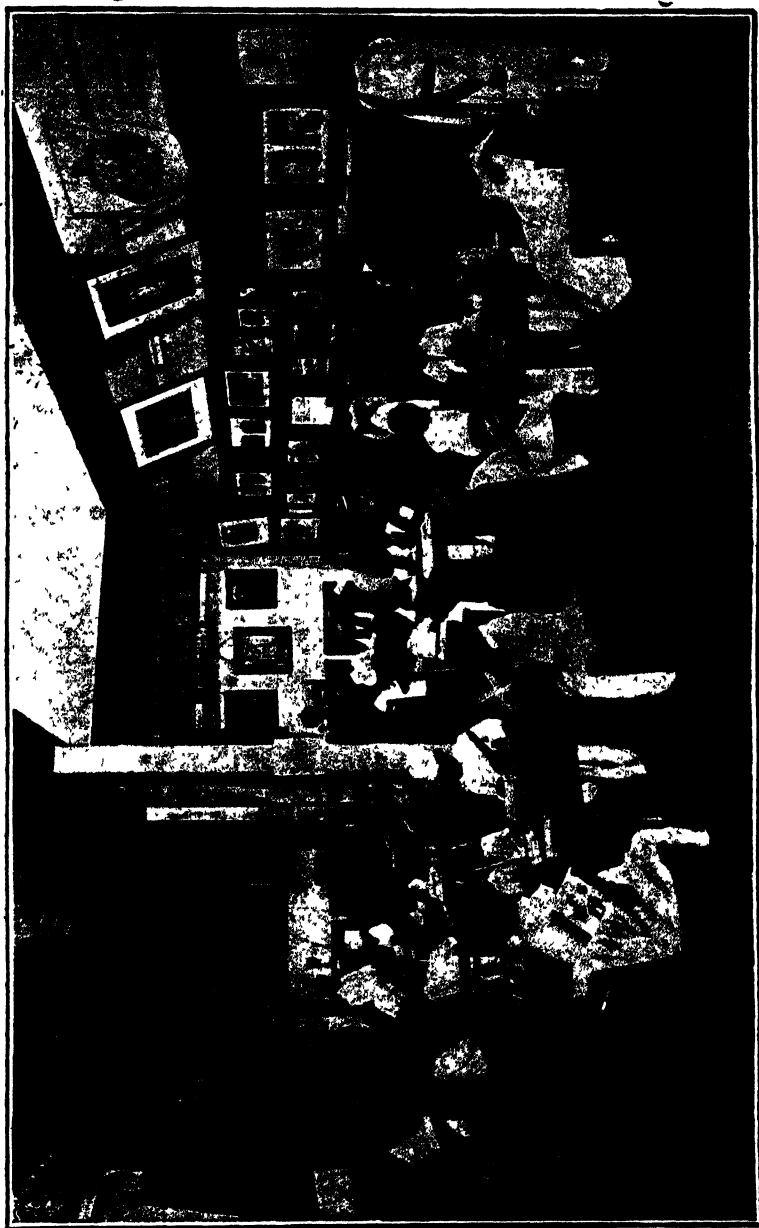
#### **The Parrot Firing the Salute.**

" My eyes make pictures when they are shut ;  
I see a fountain, large and fair. "

and the Viceroy retired and was enjoying his well earned rest.

#### **The Libraries.**

The Special was nearing Kotah the next morning at 8 when His Excellency had his little breakfast and as he was glancing at the papers, his eye suddenly caught a paragraph which ran: " I desire to express my admiration of the liberal conceptions Your Highness has formed of educational needs. You have rightly conceived that of the many disabilities and sufferings to which the masses are exposed, ignorance is the potent cause and knowledge is a certain cure, and in proportion as knowledge can be spread among the people, in such measure will the moral and intellectual



**The Children's Library.**

well-being of the community improve and expand." His Excellency was reading his own speech and it reminded him of the popular Library movement in Baroda organised by the pioneer of free and compulsory education in India.

His Highness is the first to establish State-aided free public libraries in the country and it is, as Lord Willingdon had observed, "an unique and evidently most successful effort to instruct old and young." As Sir Manubhai has aptly said, "A visit to Baroda cannot be complete unless it includes the Central Library, with its fine Oriental collection of rare Sanskrit manuscripts, its rich treasure of useful reference books, the juvenile section and the children's story-telling rooms, the women's library, the travelling libraries and its visual instruction theatre." Why therefore the Viceregal programme did not include a visit to this useful institution is a matter for Sir Manubhai himself to answer but the harvest of engagements was so abundant and leisure so limited that there was really no time. The State now boasts of six hundred and fifty libraries scattered all over its territories, while the collection of books amounts to about 1,25,000 works.

There was a German saying that the wardrobe was the library of women but the idea has been now exploded and now the fair sex wish to be judges and members of Parliament.

### **The Future Hopefuls.**

Under the enlightened policy of His Highness the Maharaja Sahib, people have begun to appreciate the importance of education and are now taking care to see that the children, though born in poverty shall not grow up in ignorance. The Library nourishes and protects the child's eager mind—the mind that knocks at all doors and drinks at all fountains, pure and impure; and here is a healthy fountain that bubbles up to every thirsty child and here is a door that opens upon healthful fields. "Ignorance is the curse of God; Knowledge, the wing wherewith we fly to Heaven." We should habitually live with wise thoughts and right feelings and the brain should be "The Dome of thought, the Palace of the Soul."

### **Advance towards Perfection.**

This really is the quintessence of His Highness' educational policy which has developed and guided thought both political and social. Though all kinds of Governments be improved in modern times, yet it is well known that monarchical Governments have made the greatest advances towards perfection. What was formerly said in praise of republics may now be affirmed of civilised monarchies, namely that they are a government of laws, not of men. They are susceptible of order, property is secure, industry encouraged, the arts flourish and the Prince lives secure among his subjects like a father among his children.

The excellent condition of the Library is due to the intelligent efforts of the present Curator Mr. Newton Dutt who with the help of his able assistant Mr. M. N. Amin, has carefully preserved the traditions of his able predecessors and has brought the system to a state of perfection.

### **An Accomplished Fact**

It was a pleasure to His Highness the Maharaja Sahib, no less to the popular Resident Mr. E. H. Kealy that the visit of one of the greatest Viceroys of India to which they were all looking forward had become an accomplished fact and that it was attended with such uniform success. Mr. Kealy, though actually unable to participate in the brilliant festivities, owing to his illness, was keeping himself in touch with every detail of the ceremonies and rejoiced in the happy conclusion of the memorable event.

### **The Resident**

Mr. Edward H. Kealy, M. A., I. C. S. received his education in the University College, Oxford and had served in Bengal and Central India, before he became Political Agent, North Western Frontier Provinces in 1908. He was Resident in Gwalior in 1922 and has been Resident at Baroda since August 1924 where he has earned the love and respect of all who have come in contact with him. In recognition of his able services, His Majesty the King Emperor was graciously pleased to confer on him the distinction of the C. I. E.



### **The Baroda Residency.**

The Residency which is within the State limits is a commodious building, built in 1838 and from the marble tablets on the facades of the building, it appears that it was once the dwelling place of General Sir J Outram and Sir Richard Meade K. C. S. I. whose careers are distinguished in other parts of India and who have left enduring marks on the history of Baroda. The building has been very much improved and there are



### **His Highness and Mr. Kealy.**

extensive gardens which have become popular, owing to the several social entertainments held there.

### **Appreciation of Government**

In the afternoon, His Highness the Maharaja Stheb gave an

excellent dinner to the officers and men of the Police who were engaged in Viceregal duty, in appreciation of their arduous services and his kindness was a great encouragement to them.

As all arrangements in connection with the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy to Baroda were attended with uniform success, His Highness' Government was pleased to convey their appreciation and thanks to all officers, members of the several committees and State servants of all grades, for the gratifying result, Sir Manubhai observing



**The Viceregal Special.**

in the concluding part of the Memorandum: " My thanks are especially due to Rao Bahadur Govindbhai H. Desai, for his untiring zeal in supervising and directing the arrangements for all functions on behalf of the Central Committee. " Rao Bahadur Govindbhai is one of the prominent figures of Baroda who made a mark as the once Commissioner of Police and Commissioner of Census and later shone as the Chief Justice of Baroda. He has worked in almost all the important departments of the State and is at present a Naib Dewan. He is the author of several important useful books and is known for his liberal views.

was 1.30 when the Viceregal Special reached Hindaun City and Their Excellencies with the members of the staff sat to lunch after which His Excellency the Viceroy who was well impressed by the hospitality shown during their stay at Baroda and by the progressive administrative measures devised by His Highness the Maharaja Saheb was pleased to despatch the following telegraphic message to His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar :

### **The Viceroy's Message.**

*Viceroy's Camp, Hindaun City*

**His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar, Baroda.**

*"On leaving Your Highness' State let me again express my appreciation of the warm welcome extended to Her Excellency and myself during our visit to Baroda. I was greatly impressed by all that I learnt and saw of the many activities of the progressive administration of Your Highness' State and of the far reaching measures directed by Your Highness towards the social and educational advancement of your subjects. Her Excellency and I carry away most pleasant memories of our visit and of the kindness and hospitality of Your Highness and Her Highness the Maharani."*

**Viceroy.**

It was 8.30 at night when Their Excellencies reached Delhi and the next morning. His Excellency the Viceroy was once more enjoying the cool breezes of the capital of India when he received the following telegram from His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar :

### **The Gaekwar's Reply**

*Baroda.*

**H. E. The Viceroy, Delhi.**

*"I thank Your Excellency for your kind telegram. I am glad that you and Lady Reading enjoyed your visit"*

**Maharaja Gaekwar**

### **The Author's Prayer.**

In the words of Archbishop Trench, the humble author sings in admiration,



**Krishnarao N. Panemanglor.**

"Live long, the shadow of no grief

Come ever near to thee:

As thou in height of place art chief,

So chief in gladness be. "

Their Excellencies had left Baroda on Saturday night and the State Battery fired a Royal Salute of thirty one guns early at Sunrise on the morning of Monday, the twenty fifth to announce the departure of His Excellency Lord Reading, Viceroy and Governor General of India.

### **Departure to Europe.**

After another two months' stay in India, Their Excellencies sailed for England by the S. S. Naldera on the 3rd of April 1926. As the departure was public, the leading citizens and officials and representatives of Indian Ruling Chiefs and of foreign States assembled at the " Gateway of India " to give Their Excellencies a hearty send off. Lord Reading received hearty ovations on his way to the Apollo Bunder which he continuously acknowledged by waving his hat and as the launch steamed away, they were cheered by the people assembled on the pier head.

### **The Fundamental Duty of Government.**

It was a great asset to India during the past five years to have at the head of the administration a man of great experience, regarded as one of the greatest lawyers of the world, one to whose deadly cross-examination, even the most skilful "wangler" submitted with respect. As early as 1924, Lord Reading had said :

"The fundamental duty of Government is to preserve public security on which political advance and all the functions of a civilised social organism depend. And as it is manifest that sound and permanent political progress cannot be accelerated by violence or threat of violence, so also I deem it my duty and the duty of my Government to see that no violence or threat of violence shall operate to retard it "

### **The Chamber of Princes.**

To the Chamber of Princes, inaugurated shortly before he came to India, much encouragement was given by His Excellency Lord Reading who presided at the annual deliberations. In his famous speech delivered on the occasion of the Banquet on the twenty second, Lord Reading pointedly drew attention to the potentialities of the Chamber in guiding the destiny of the States, as India advances towards Self-Government and it is gratifying that the unique position won by the Princes for themselves in the world has been rightly recognised by their being included in the Indian delegation to the meetings of the League of Nations.

### **Lady Reading's Great Work.**

Lord Reading had the unwearrying support of Lady Reading who despite her frail health devoted herself to the cause of Indian womanhood in a way that cannot be forgotten. Her successful attempt to establish an Indian Nursing Association furnishes the link by which she has so sincerely attached herself to the people and it was extremely lucky that she was able to accompany her noble consort in the visit to the most over-worked man in the State—the Gaekwar of Baroda.

### **Dignity of a Marquisate.**

Lord Reading is now raised to the dignity of a Marquisate and

this brings the total number of Peers of that rank to forty. We shall all join in congratulating Lord and Lady Reading on their well-deserved promotion and wish them many years of happiness to come.



**Announcing the Departure of the Viceroy.**

It is interesting to note that a Marquis' coronet consists of four strawberry leaves with four silver balls technically termed Pearls, slightly raised on points between them. The robe worn at the opening of Parliament is of scarlet cloth, with three and a half rows of ermine.

" Greatness is fundamentality of character :—there is no greater power, no more enduring force among men than the influence of prominent personalities. " **The Maharaja Gaekwar.**

" Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing, leave behind us  
Foot-prints on the sands of time."

**" And let who will be clever,  
Do noble things—not dream them all day long.  
And so make Life, Death, and the vast for ever  
One grand, sweet song."**

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